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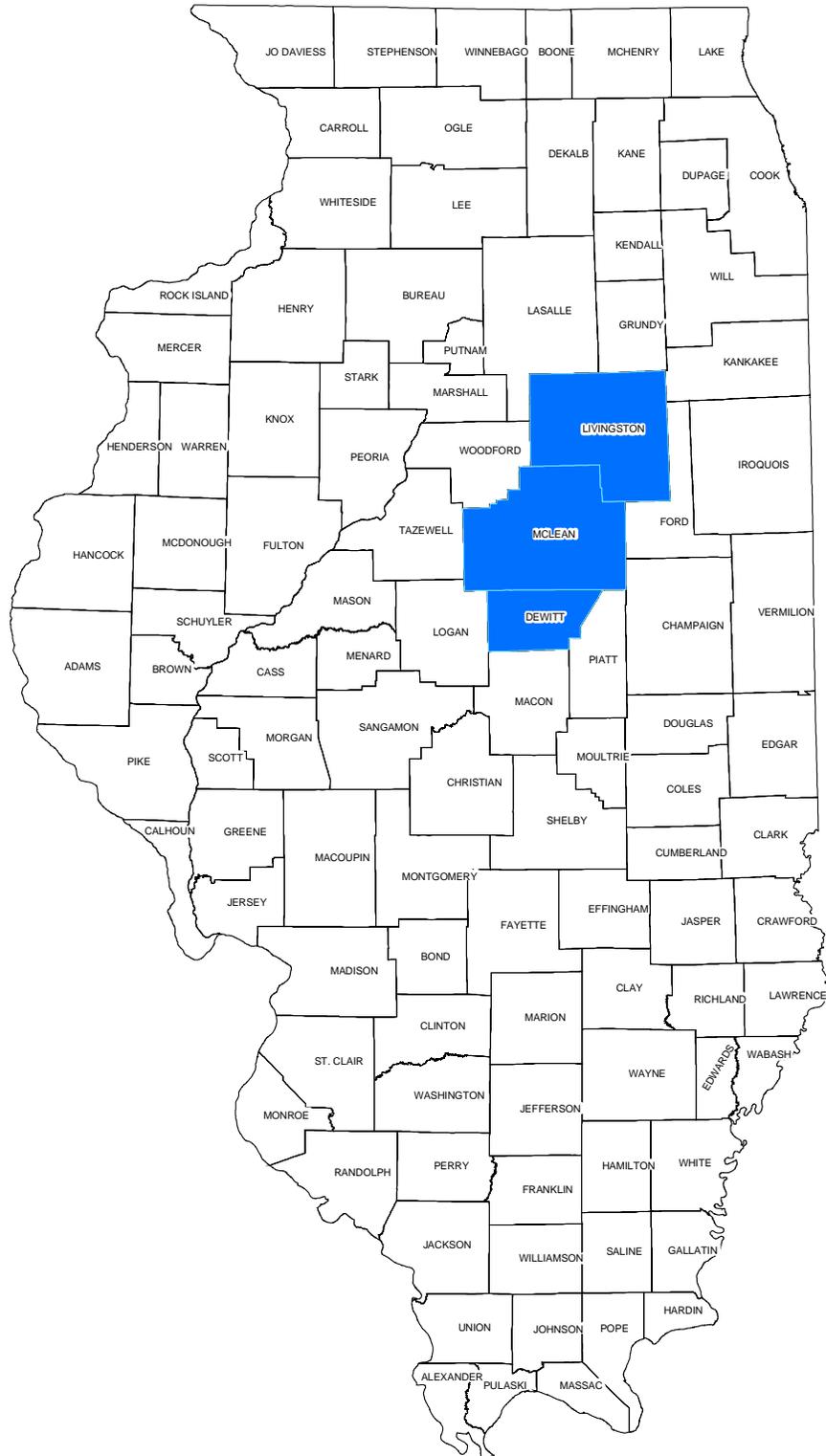
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March 2004

Assessing Illinois' Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and Task Forces



A Profile of Task Force 6

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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, seven local Illinois police agencies participated in Task Force 6 (a participating agency is defined as one that contributes either personnel or financial resources to Task Force 6). Officers assigned to Task Force 6 (totaling ten in 2002, six from participating agencies) accounted for 2 percent of the total number of sworn police officers working for agencies participating in Task Force 6 (page 1).
- The violent Index offense rate was collectively higher across jurisdictions that participated in Task Force 6 than among the combined jurisdictions that did not participate in Task Force 6 (page 3).
- The drug arrest rate was higher collectively in those jurisdictions that participated in Task Force 6 than in those jurisdictions not participating in Task Force 6. The drug arrest rate achieved by Task Force 6 was much smaller than that achieved by either participating or non-participating agencies (page 6).
- When comparing the types of drug offenders arrested by those agencies participating in Task Force 6, those agencies not participating, and Task Force 6, it was found that Task Force 6 tended to target and arrest more serious drug law violators in 2002, specifically violators of the Controlled Substances Act, which tend to be felony-level offenses (page 8).
- The majority of all drug arrests reported by Task Force 6, for either violations of the Cannabis Control Act or the Controlled Substances Act, involve drug sale or delivery (page 13).
- Between 1993 and 2002, the amount of cannabis and cocaine seized by Task Force 6 increased (pages 14 and 15).
- Between 1991 and 2002, all drug arrests by Task Force 6 resulted in prosecution. Of these Task Force 6 drug offender prosecutions, 64 percent were for violations of Controlled Substances Act. In addition, between 1991 and 2002, 63 percent of all drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of Task Force 6 activity were convicted (page 17).

- In 2002, among those Task Force 6 drug offenders convicted and sentenced, prison sentences accounted for the largest proportion (66 percent), followed by jail and probation sentences (17 percent each) (page 19).
- Between 1991 and 2002, prison sentences resulting from Task Force 6 cases accounted for 29 percent of all drug-law violators sent to prison from the region where Task Force 6 operates (page 20).
- Unlike the arrests made by the participating and non-participating agencies, the arrests made by Task Force 6 tended to involve the substances considered to be most serious (i.e., felony versus misdemeanor), but arrests made by the participating and non-participating agencies tended to involve the substances for which a good proportion of community residents were seeking and receiving substance abuse treatment in 2002 (page 24).

I. Introduction

Task Force 6 (TF 6) covers the Illinois counties of DeWitt, Livingston and McLean. Combined, these counties had a 2001 total population of 210,596 – 14 percent more than in 1990. In 2002, seven local Illinois police agencies participated in Task Force 6. These include the DeWitt County Sheriff’s Office, the McLean County Sheriff’s Office, and the following municipal police departments: Bloomington, Normal, Pontiac, and Clinton as well as the Illinois State University Police Department. These agencies served 77 percent of the population in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6 in 2002 (see Map 1 on page 30). A participating agency is defined as one that contributes either personnel or financial resources to Task Force 6.

In addition to agencies that participate in Task Force 6, these Illinois counties are served by 15 additional police departments that do not participate in Task Force 6. According to the Illinois State Police, county sheriffs and local police departments, in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6, combined, employed 372 full-time police officers as of Oct. 31, 2002. In comparison, there were a total ten officers assigned to Task Force 6 in 2002, six of which were assigned by participating agencies and four from the Illinois State Police (ISP). Thus, the officers assigned to Task Force 6 during 2002 accounted for a relatively small proportion—2 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 quarterly 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 Task Force 6, 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.

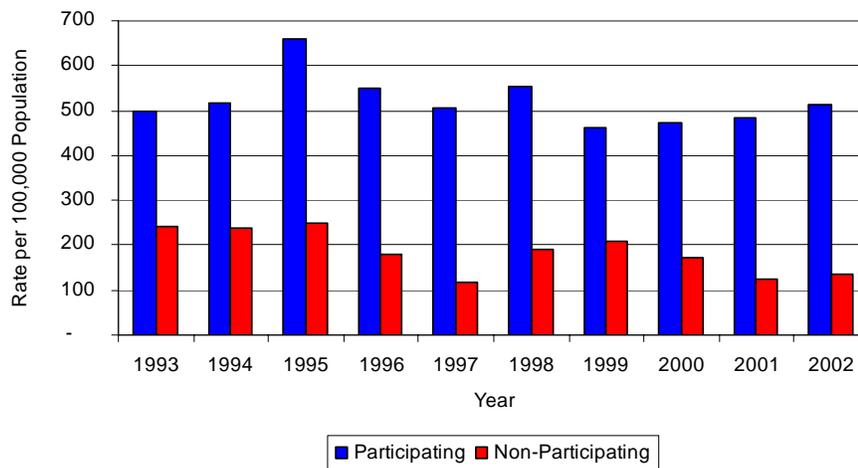
II. Trends in Violent Index Offenses and Arrests

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 Task Force 6 operates totaled 887, a 7 percent increase from the 827 offenses reported in 1993. The majority (73 percent) of violent Index offenses reported to the police between 1993 and 2002 were aggravated assaults, while 16 percent were criminal sexual assaults. (Note: when most other counties and regions across the state were examined, robberies accounted for the second largest proportion of violent Index offenses reported to police).

During the period analyzed, the violent Index offense rate for the region covered by Task Force 6 remained relatively unchanged, decreasing slightly from 431 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 421 offenses per 100,000 population in 2002. Conversely, the violent Index offense rate in the participating agencies increased slightly, from 498 to 515 offenses per 100,000 population, while the rate in the non-participating agencies decreased 44 percent, from 241 to 135 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Thus, the violent Index offense rate was collectively higher across the jurisdictions that participated in Task Force 6 than it was among the combined jurisdictions that did not participate in Task Force 6.

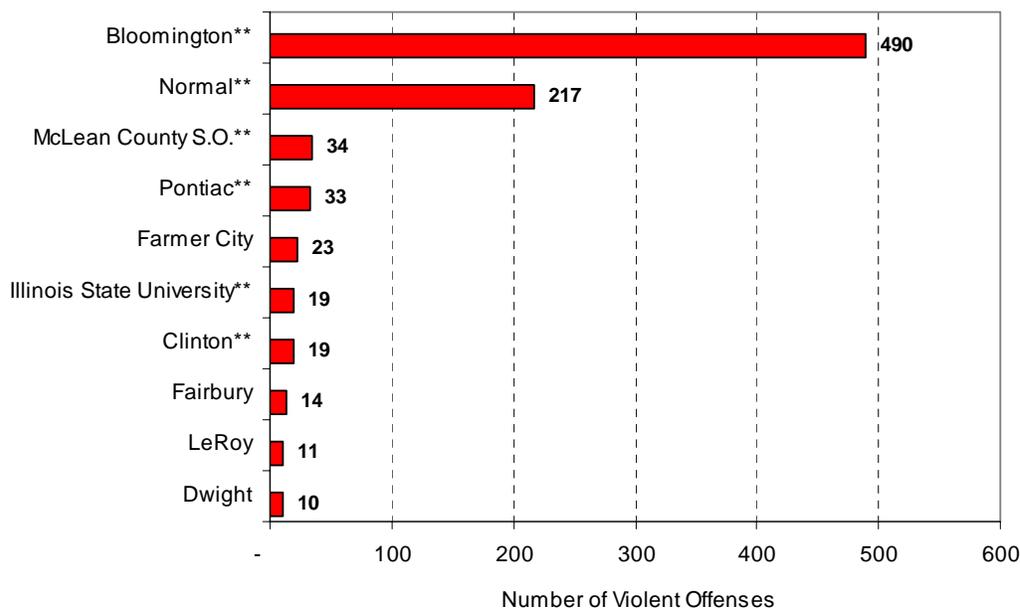
Figure 1
Violent Index Offense Rates for Participating
and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task
Force 6



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

Across the individual local law enforcement agencies covered by Task Force 6's jurisdiction, two agencies, the Bloomington Police Department and the Normal Police Department, accounted for 79 percent of all violent Index offenses reported to the police (Figure 2). Agencies reporting fewer than ten violent Index offenses in 2002 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 40 violent Index offenses per 100,000 in Livingston County to 1,141 offenses per 100,000 population reported by authorities in Farmer City.

Figure 2
2002 Violent Index Offenses* Reported by Participating
and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by
Task Force 6



Source: Illinois State Police

*Agencies reporting ten or more violent offenses

**Agencies participating in TF 6

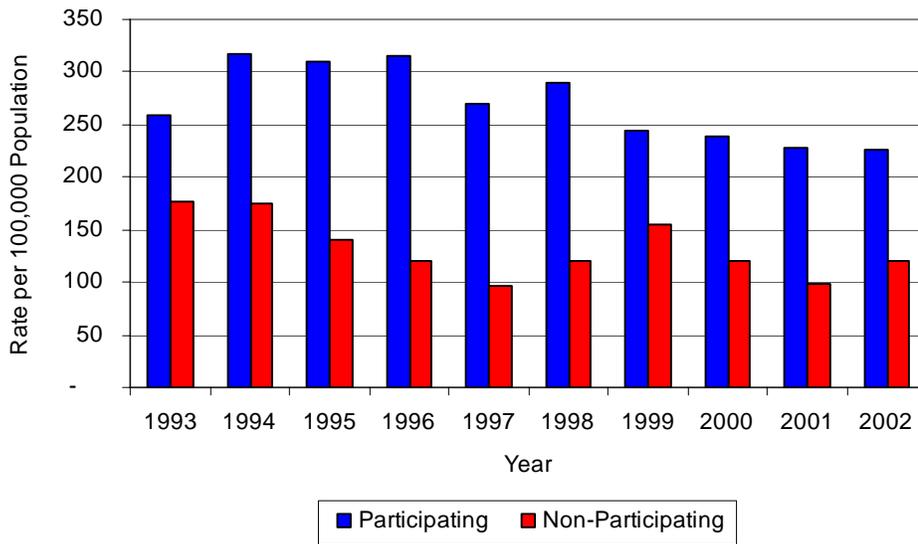
An indicator of the workload that law enforcement agencies place on other components of the justice system is the number of arrests made by police, including those for violent and property Index offenses and drug offenses. Unlike offenses, which are what police must respond to, arrests represent those 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 Task Force 6 decreased 8 percent, from 456 to 420. As with reported violent Index offenses, the majority (89 percent) of violent Index arrests were for aggravated assaults, followed by criminal sexual assaults (5 percent).

During the period analyzed, the violent Index arrest rate for the region covered by Task Force 6 decreased 16 percent, from 238 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 199 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the violent Index arrest rate in the participating agencies decreased 13 percent, from 259 to 226 offenses per 100,000 population, while the rate in the non-participating agencies decreased 33 percent, from 177 to 120 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Violent Index Arrest Rates for Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force 6

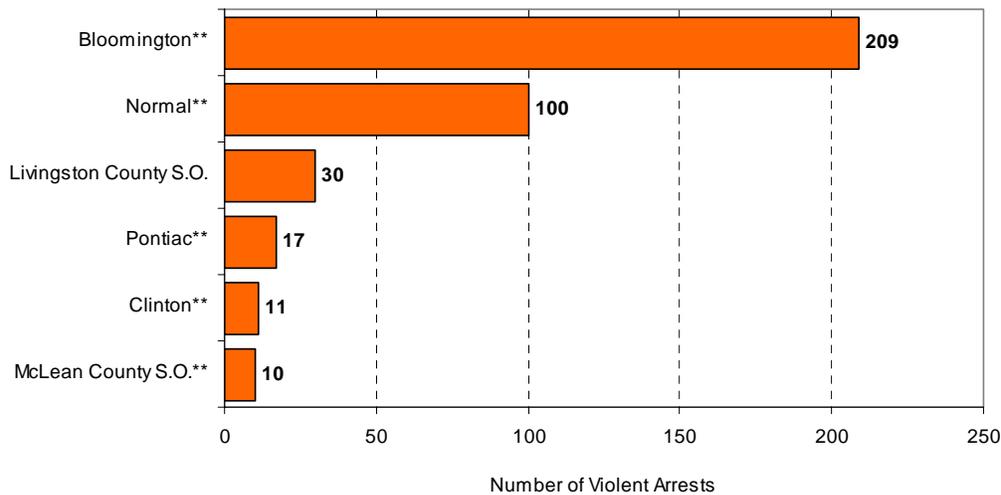


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U. S. Census Bureau data

The majority (74 percent) of arrests for violent Index offenses occurring in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6 were made by two agencies. Agencies reporting fewer than ten arrests for violent Index offenses in 2002 are excluded from Figure 4. Of the 420 violent Index arrests made in 2002, the Bloomington Police Department accounted for the majority (50 percent), followed by the Normal Police Department (24 percent) (Figure 4). Five of the seven agencies participating in Task Force 6 were among the six agencies with the highest number of violent Index arrests during 2002.

Figure 4

2002 Violent Index Arrests* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force 6



Source: Illinois State Police

*Agencies reporting ten or more violent arrests

**Agencies participating in TF 6

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 – offenses for which a sentence to prison for one year or more is provided. The majority of cannabis and drug paraphernalia offenses encountered by police, on the other hand, tend to be misdemeanor-level offenses – those offenses for which a sentence to a term of incarceration in other than a prison for less than one year may be imposed.

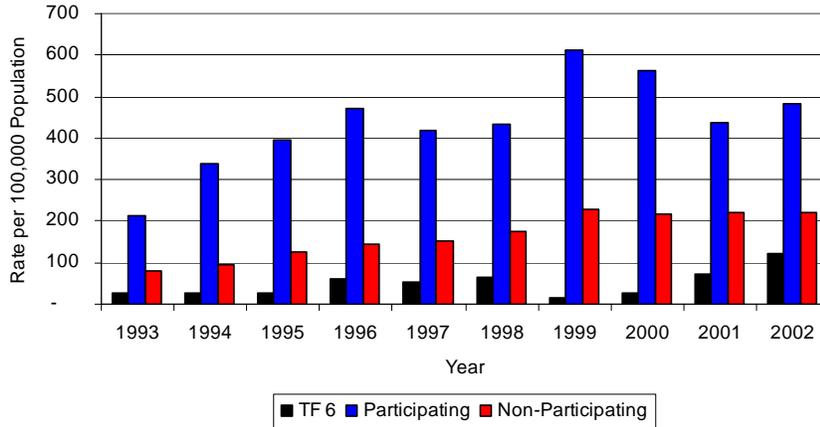
In 2002, local law enforcement agencies in the counties covered by Task Force 6 reported 1,358 arrests for drug law violations, more than triple the number reported for 1993 (357 arrests). Between 1993 and 2002, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act consistently out-numbered arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act in DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties, combined. During the same period, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act in these three counties, combined, more than doubled, from 252 to 573. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act in the three-county region more than tripled, from 92 to 309. In addition, arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, enacted in 1993, increased from ten in 1993 to 460 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 Task Force 6 and the participating and non-participating agencies.

During the period analyzed, the drug arrest rate for the Cannabis Control Act and Controlled Substances Act, combined, in the region covered by Task Force 6 more than doubled, from 179 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 419 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the drug arrest rate in the participating agencies increased from 214 to 484, while the drug arrest rate for non-participating agencies increased from 80 to 220 arrests per 100,000 population. Meanwhile, the arrest rate for Task Force 6 more than quadrupled between 1993 and 2002, from 28 to 123 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 5). Thus,

the drug arrest rate tended to be higher collectively in the jurisdictions that participate in Task Force 6 than in those jurisdictions that do not participate in Task Force 6.

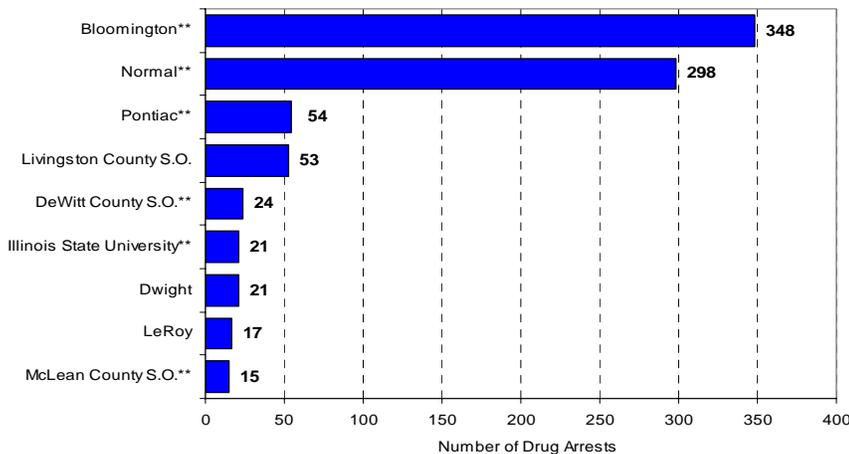
Figure 5
Total Drug Arrest Rates for Task Force 6 and Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force 6



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, Task Force 6 and U.S. Census Bureau data

Across the individual local law enforcement agencies in the region covered by Task Force 6, the total number of cannabis and controlled substance arrests ranged from zero to 348. Of the 882 drug arrests made during 2002 in the three-county region, two agencies accounted for 73 percent of these drug arrests. Nine agencies had fewer than 15 drug arrests reported in 2002 and are excluded from Figure 6. The Bloomington Police Department accounted 39 percent, while the Normal Police Department accounted for 34 percent of cannabis and controlled substance arrests in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6 (Figure 6). Six of the seven agencies participating in Task Force 6 were among the nine agencies with the highest number of drug arrests during 2002.

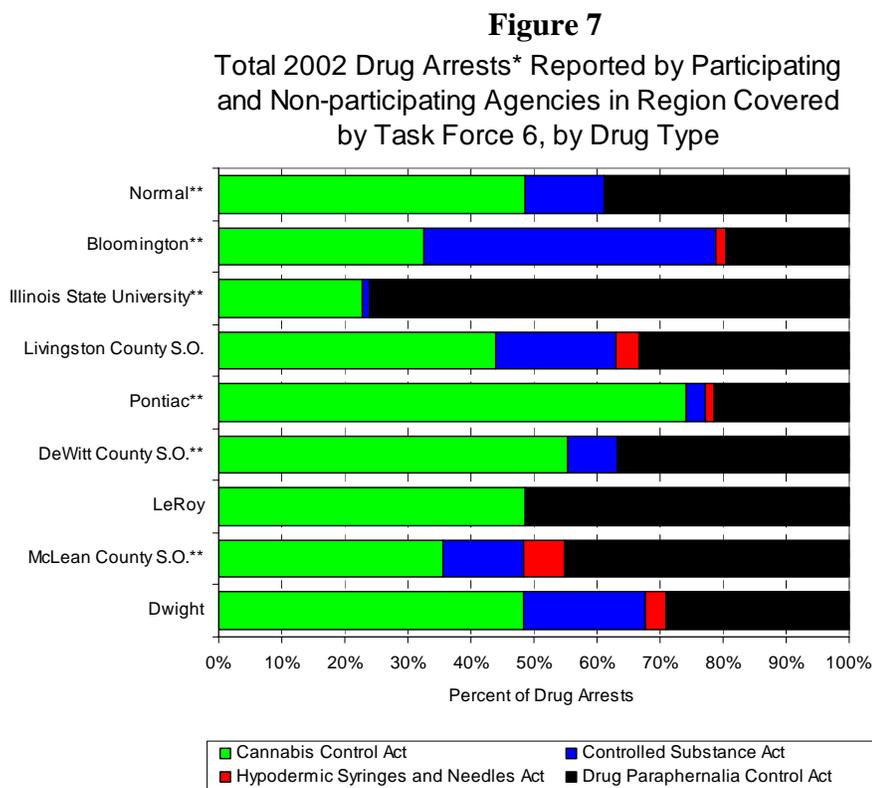
Figure 6
2002 Drug Arrests*Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force 6



Source: Illinois State Police

*Agencies reporting 15 or more drug arrests
**Agencies participating in Task Force 6

In addition to the 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 Task Force 6 (Figure 7).



Source: Illinois State Police

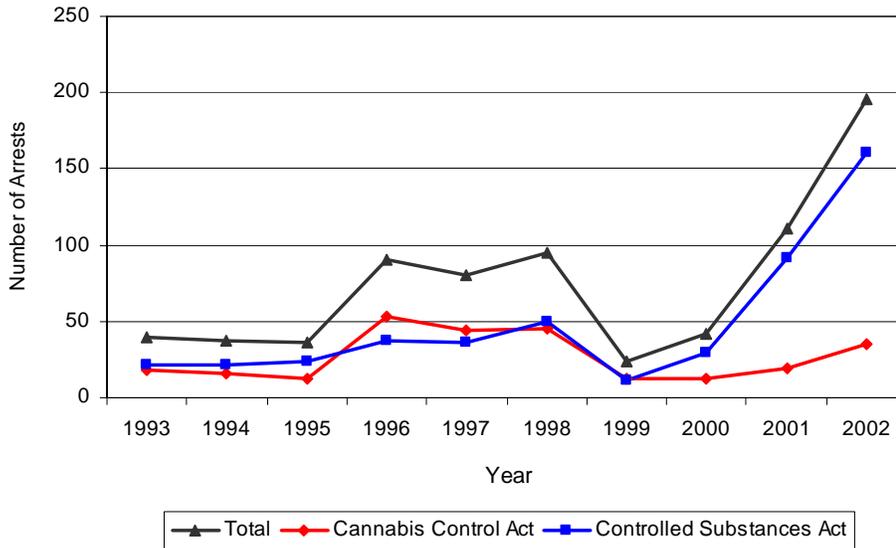
*Agencies reporting 30 or more drug arrests
**Agencies participating in TF 6

Between 1993 and 2002, the number of combined cannabis and controlled substances arrests made by Task Force 6 decreased 55 percent, from 58 to 26 (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 Task Force 6 during the period analyzed. Between 1993 and 2002, the number of Task Force 6 arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act nearly doubled, from 18 to 36, and arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased more than six-fold, from 22 to 161 (Figure 8).

Between 1993 and 2002, the proportion of drug arrests made by Task Force 6 accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased 49 percent between 1993 and 2002. In 2002, 82 percent of the drug arrests made by Task Force 6 were for violations of the Controlled Substances Act, compared to 55 percent in 1993. In 2002, arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act accounted for 36 percent of the drug arrests made in the participating agencies and 27 percent for the non-participating agencies, compared to 29 percent and 10 percent, respectively, in 1993. Thus, arrests by Task Force 6 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 Task Force 6 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 Task Force 6

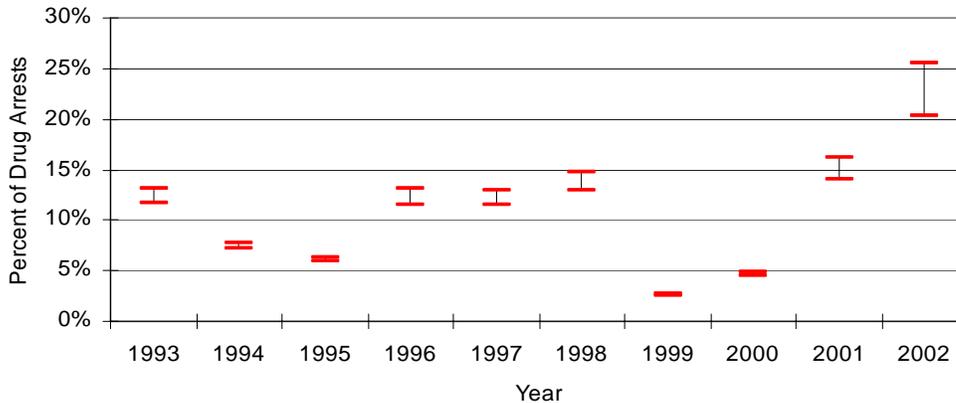


Source: Task Force 6

The data presented below represent the percent of total drug arrests made by participating agencies accounted for by Task Force 6. 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 participating agencies (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the Task Force 6 arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the Task Force 6 arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. It is estimated that the proportion of all drug arrests across the participating agencies accounted for by Task Force 6 was between 12 to 13 percent in 1993, but increased to between 20 to 25 percent in 2002. Thus, despite the fact that the officers assigned to Task Force 6 accounted for a small proportion of total officers in the region, they accounted for a relatively moderate proportion of the drug arrests in the region between 1993 and 2002.

Figure 9

Percent of Total Drug Arrests Accounted for by Task Force 6



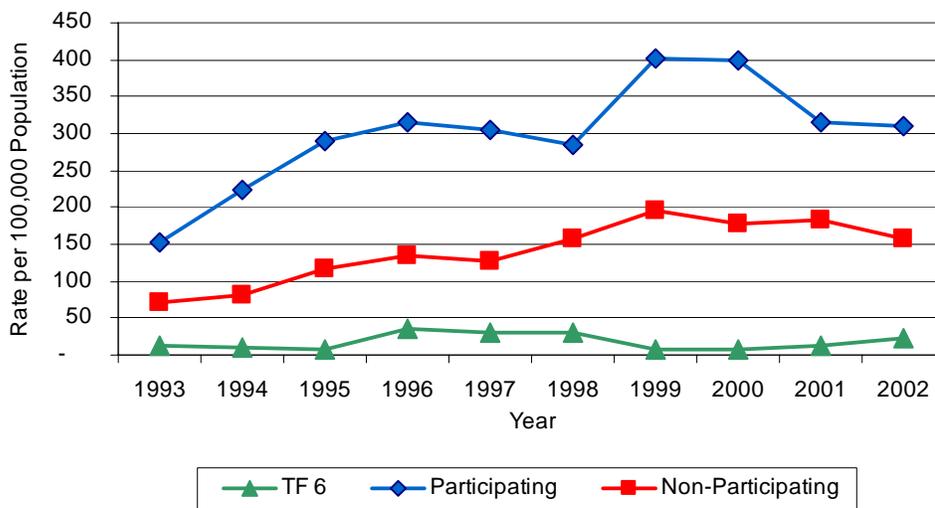
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and Task Force 6

The number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act in DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties totaled 574 in 2002, more than double the 252 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 11 percent, increasing from 73 percent to 65 percent. Agencies participating in Task Force 6 accounted for the largest portion (86 percent) of the total number of arrests for cannabis violations. Task Force 6 reported 35 arrests for cannabis violations in 2002, accounting for 18 percent of the unit's drug arrests.

During the period analyzed, the cannabis arrest rate for the region covered by Task Force 6 more than doubled, from 131 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 273 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. The cannabis arrest rate in the participating agencies also more than doubled, from 152 to 309 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies more than doubled from 72 to 160 arrests per 100,000 population. The cannabis arrest rate for Task Force 6, increased 74 percent, from 13 to 22 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 participating agencies than in the combined jurisdictions of the non-participating agencies.

Figure 10

Cannabis Arrests Rates in the Region Covered by Task Force 6 as Reported by Participating Agencies, Non-participating Agencies, and Task Force 6

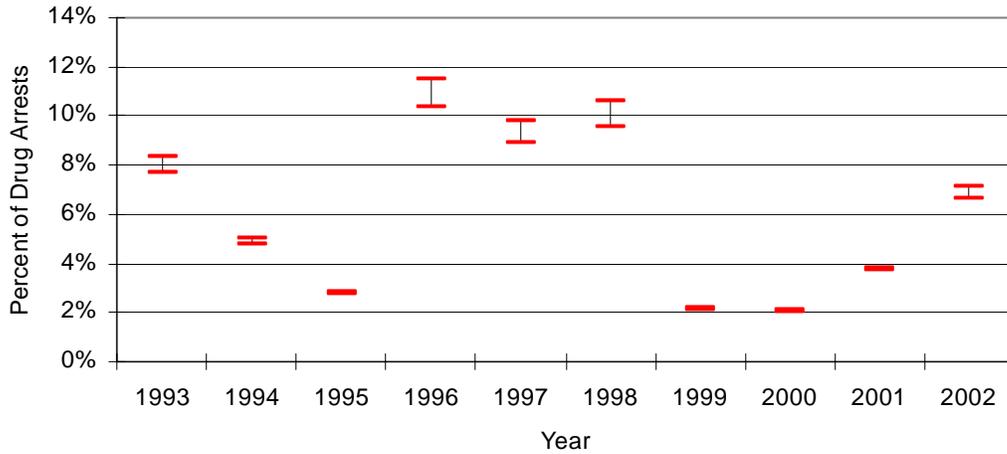


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, U.S. Census Bureau, and Task Force 6 data

The data presented in Figure 11 represent the percent of cannabis arrests made by participating agencies accounted for by Task Force 6. An upper and lower bound is shown which accounts for whether or not the unit's numbers are counted as part of the UCR submissions made by participating agencies (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the Task Force 6 arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the Task Force 6 arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. It is estimated that the proportion of cannabis arrests across the participating agencies accounted for by Task Force 6 was about 8 percent in 1993, but decreased slightly to 7 percent in 2002.

Figure 11

**Percent of Cannabis Arrests
Accounted for by Task Force 6**



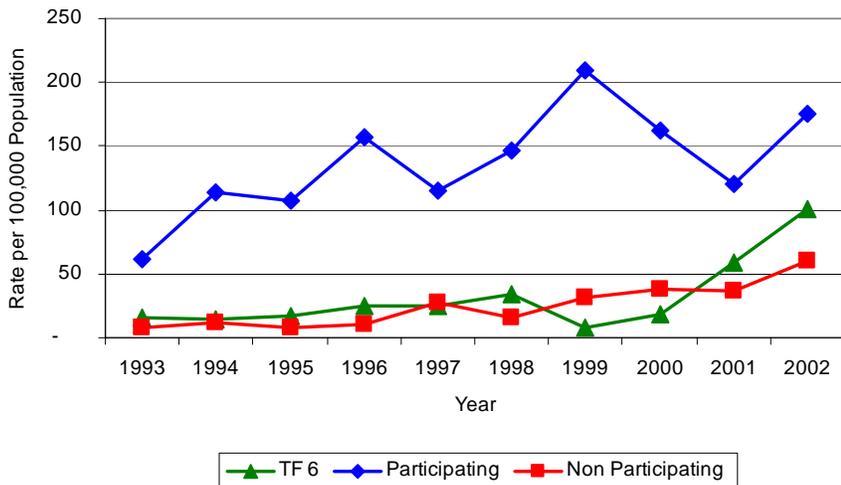
Source: ICJIA calculations using
Illinois State Police and Task Force 6

In DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties, the number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Controlled Substances Act more than tripled between 1993 and 2002, from 92 to 309. 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 27 percent to 35 percent. In 2002, Task Force 6 reported 161 arrests for controlled substance violations, 82 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 Task Force 6 more than tripled, from 48 to 147 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). The controlled substances arrest rate in the participating agencies nearly tripled, from 62 to 175 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies increased more than seven-fold, from eight to 60 arrests per 100,000 population. The controlled substances arrest rate for Task Force 6 increased more than six-fold, from 16 to 101 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). Thus, the Controlled Substances Act arrest rate was significantly higher in the participating agencies than the non-participating agencies.

Figure 12

Controlled Substances Arrest Rates in the Region Covered by Task Force 6 as Reported by Participating Agencies, Non-participating Agencies, and Task Force 6

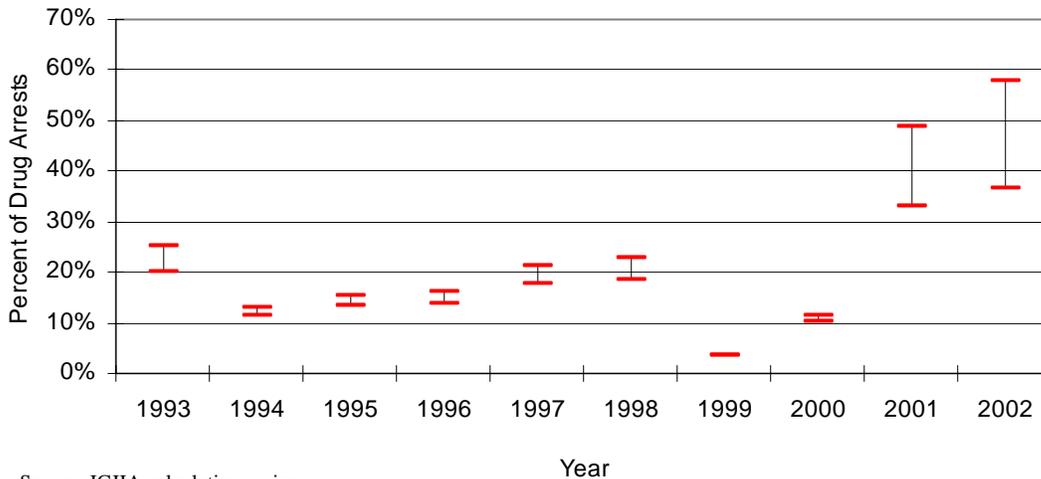


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, U.S. Census Bureau, and Task Force 6 data

The data presented in Figure 13 represent the percent of controlled substances arrests made by participating agencies accounted for by Task Force 6. 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 participating agencies (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the Task Force 6 arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the Task Force 6 arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. It is estimated that the proportion of controlled substances arrests across the participating agencies accounted for by Task Force 6 was between 20 to 55 percent in 1993, but increased to between 37 to 58 percent in 2002.

Figure 13

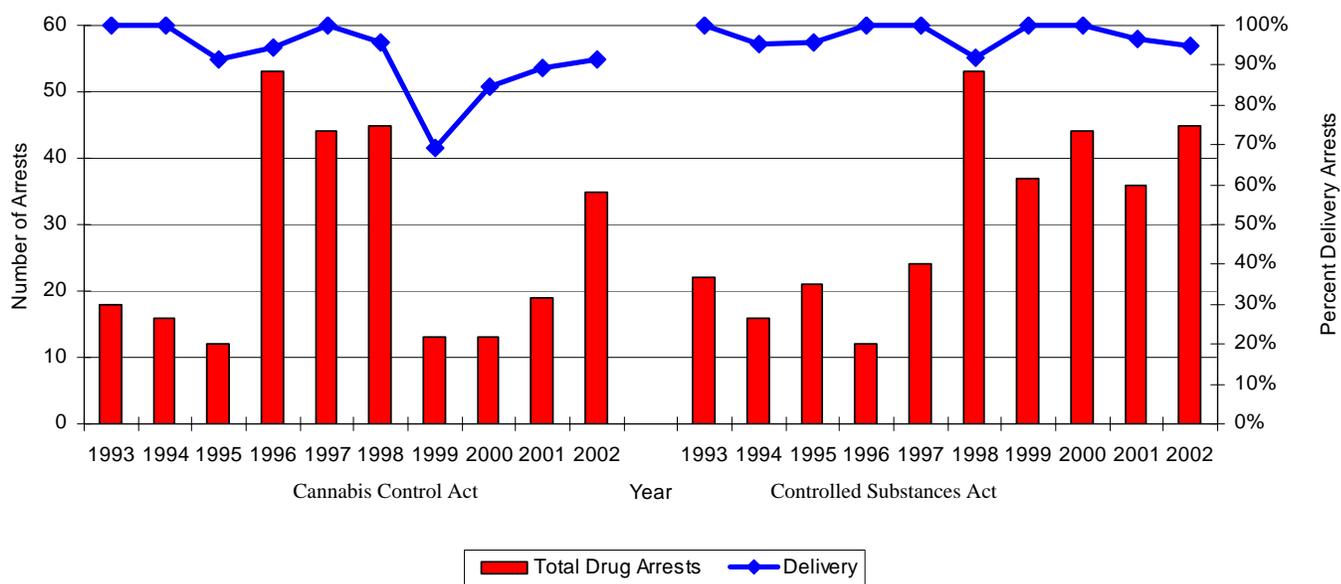
Percent of Controlled Substances Arrests Accounted for by Task Force 6



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and Task Force 6

The majority of all drug arrests reported by Task Force 6 are for delivery. Arrests for drug delivery accounted for 95 percent of all drug arrests made by Task Force 6 between 1993 and 2002. When cannabis and controlled substance arrests were examined separately, during the period analyzed, arrests for delivery of controlled substances accounted for 97 percent of the total number of arrests made for violations of the Controlled Substance Act. Similarly, arrests for the delivery of cannabis accounted for 75 percent of all arrests for violations of the Cannabis Act. Despite an increase in the number of drug arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control and Controlled Substances Acts during the period analyzed, drug delivery arrests accounted for a relatively stable proportion of all drug arrests made by Task Force 6. Arrests for the delivery of controlled substances ranged from 92 to 100 percent of all arrests made for violations of the Controlled Substances Act during the period analyzed.

Figure 14
Task Force 6 Drug Arrests for Possession versus Delivery,
by Drug Type



Source: ICJIA calculations using Task Force 6 data

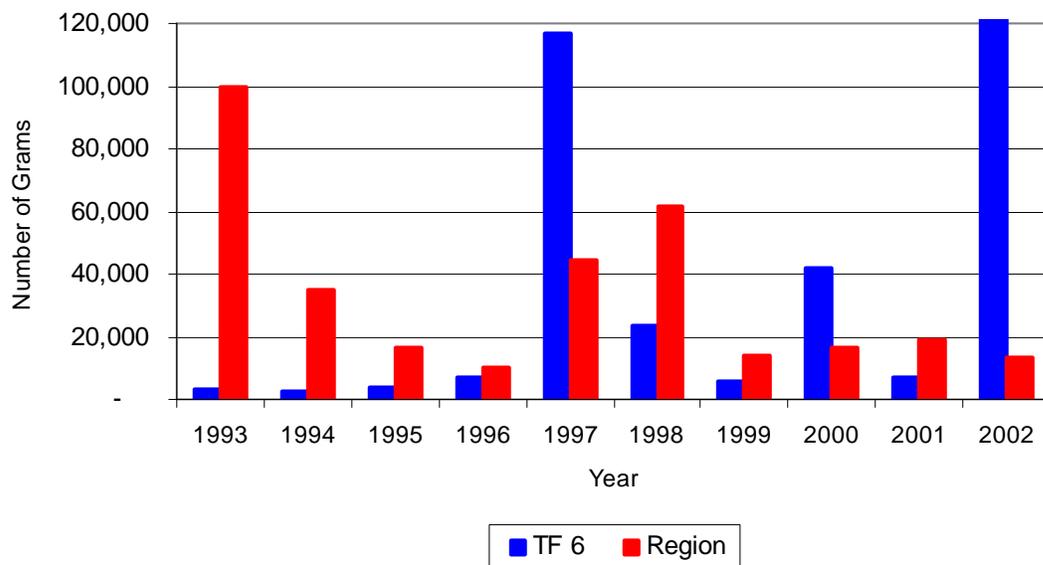
IV. Trends in Drug Seizures

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 DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties as well as the quantities of drugs seized by Task Force 6. It is important to note, however, that while Task Force 6 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 Task Force 6. The quantity of cannabis seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties decreased 86 percent, from 99,461 grams in 1993 (the largest amount seized during the period analyzed) to 13,640 grams in 2002. However, the quantity of cannabis seized by Task Force 6 increased dramatically between 1993 and 2002, from 3,443 grams to 3,058,114 grams; the largest amount seized by Task Force 6 during the period (Figure 15). In 2002, Task Force 6's cannabis seizure rate of 1,920,974 grams per 100,000 population was significantly higher than the statewide cannabis seizure rate of 19,621 grams per 100,000 population and the seizure rate of 6,592 grams per 100,000 population in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6 (Map 2).

Figure 15

Cannabis Seized and Submitted to ISP by DeWitt, Livingston and McLean Counties and Seized by Task Force 6

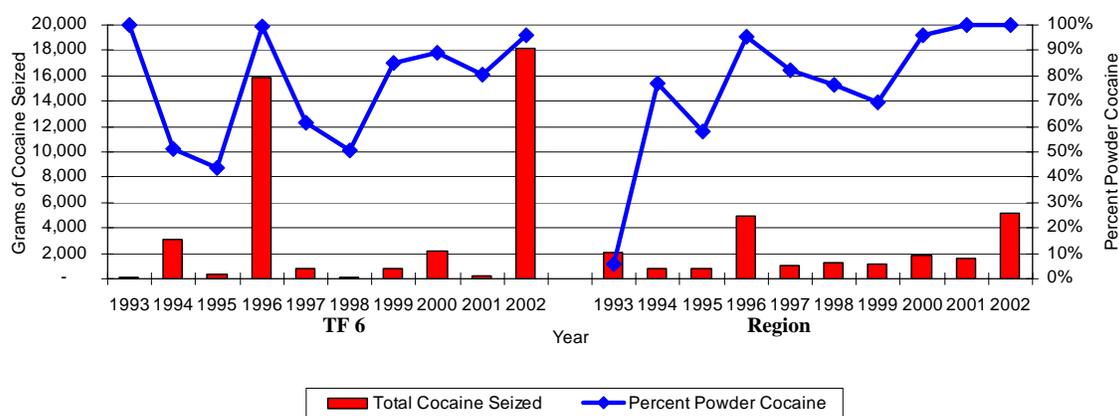


Source: Illinois State Police and Task Force 6 data

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 Task Force 6. The quantity of cocaine seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties more than doubled, from 2,115 grams in 1993 to 5,209 grams in 2002. Between 1993 and 2002, the quantity of cocaine seized by Task Force 6 increased dramatically, from 116 grams to 18,212 grams.

The proportion of all cocaine seized by Task Force 6 accounted for by powder cocaine varied significantly between 1993 and 2002, whereas local seizures, with the exception of 1993, appeared to be somewhat more stable. Although accounting for nearly two-thirds of cocaine seized during the period analyzed, the proportion accounted for by powder cocaine ranged from 6 to 100 percent of the cocaine seized in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6. For Task Force 6, while powder cocaine accounted for the largest proportion (76 percent) of total cocaine seizures throughout most of the period, the proportion decreased slightly, from 100 percent in 1993 to 96 percent in 2002 (Figure 16). In 2002, Task Force 6's cocaine seizure rate of 11,440 grams per 100,000 population was nearly one-half the statewide cocaine seizure rate of 22,099 grams per 100,000 population, but nearly five times higher than the cocaine seizure rate of 2,518 grams per 100,000 population in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6 (Maps 3 and 4).

Figure 16
Powder and Crack Cocaine Seized and Submitted to ISP by DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean Counties and Seized by Task Force 6



Source: Illinois State Police and Task Force 6 data

The total quantity of illegal drugs seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties decreased 78 percent between 1993 and 2002, from a high of 101,646 grams to 22,859 grams. On the other hand, driven by the increase in cannabis seized, the total quantity of illegal drugs seized by Task Force 6 also increased dramatically, from 3,564 grams in 1993 to 3,078,172 grams in 2002.

During the period, methamphetamine seizures accounted for a relatively small proportion of total drugs seized by Task Force 6 and the region covered by Task Force 6. While just 15 grams of methamphetamine were seized by law enforcement agencies in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6 between 1994 and 1999, more than 1,000 grams of methamphetamine have been seized in the region since 2000. Similarly, although Task Force 6 did not seize any methamphetamine between 1994 and 2000, the unit seized 471 grams of methamphetamine during the past two years. In 2002, the three-county region covered by Task Force 6 had a methamphetamine seizure rate of 265 grams per 100,000 population, 18 percent higher than the statewide seizure rate of 224 grams per 100,000 population and nearly five times higher than the seizure rate of 54 grams per 100,000 population for Task Force 6 (Map 5).

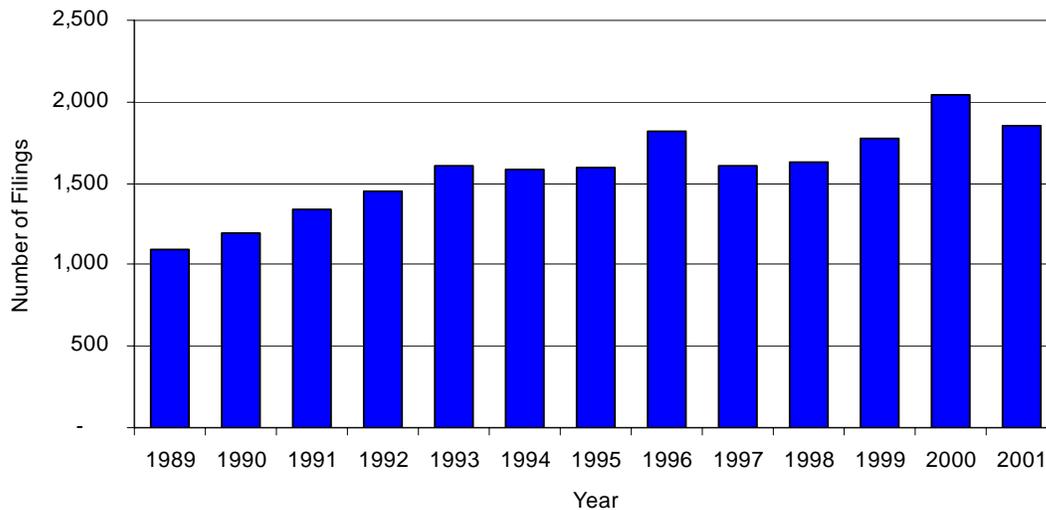
V. Trends in Prosecutions for Drug Offenses and All Felonies

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 Task Force 6 increased 69 percent, from 1,094 to 1,854 (Figure 17).

Figure 17

Number of Felony Filings in DeWitt, Livingston and McLean Counties

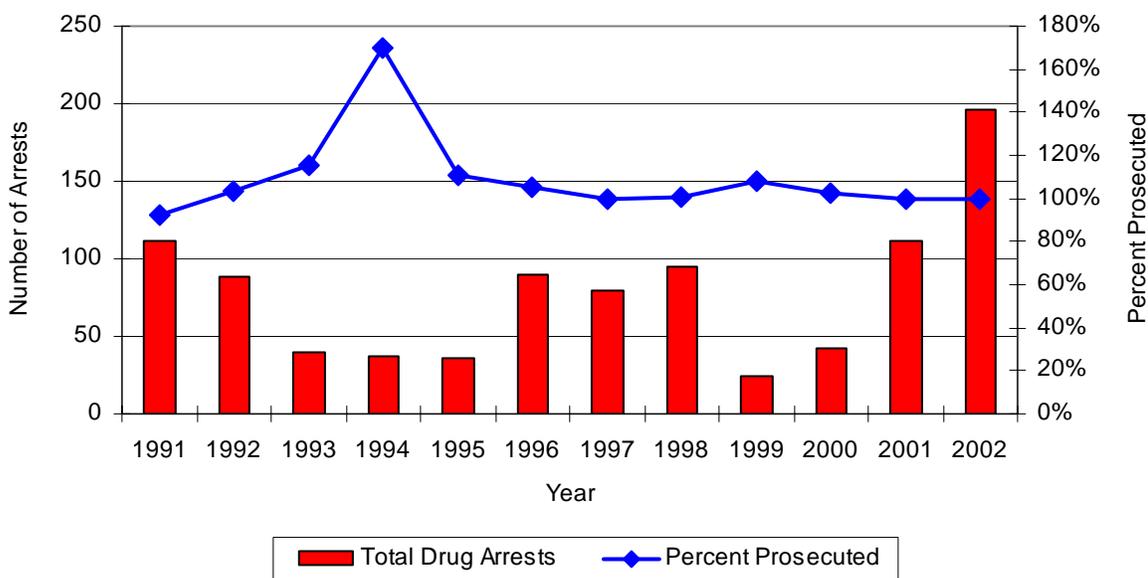


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1991 and 2002, there were a total of 990 drug prosecutions initiated as a result of Task Force 6 arrests in DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties. During this time, the number of Task Force 6 drug arrests increased 77 percent, from 110 arrests in 1991 to 196 arrests in 2002. Between 1991 and 2002, all Task Force 6 drug arrests resulted in prosecution. Of those offenders prosecuted, 64 percent were prosecuted for a violation of the Controlled Substances Act. In some years, the proportion of arrests resulting in a prosecution exceeded 100 percent (Figure 18). 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 Task Force 6 Drug Arrests and Percentage of Arrests Resulting in Prosecution



Source: Task Force 6 data

Between 1991 and 2002, 63 percent (628) of the 990 drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of Task Force 6 activity were convicted. Convictions for controlled substances accounted for 64 percent of all Task Force 6 initiated convictions during the period analyzed.

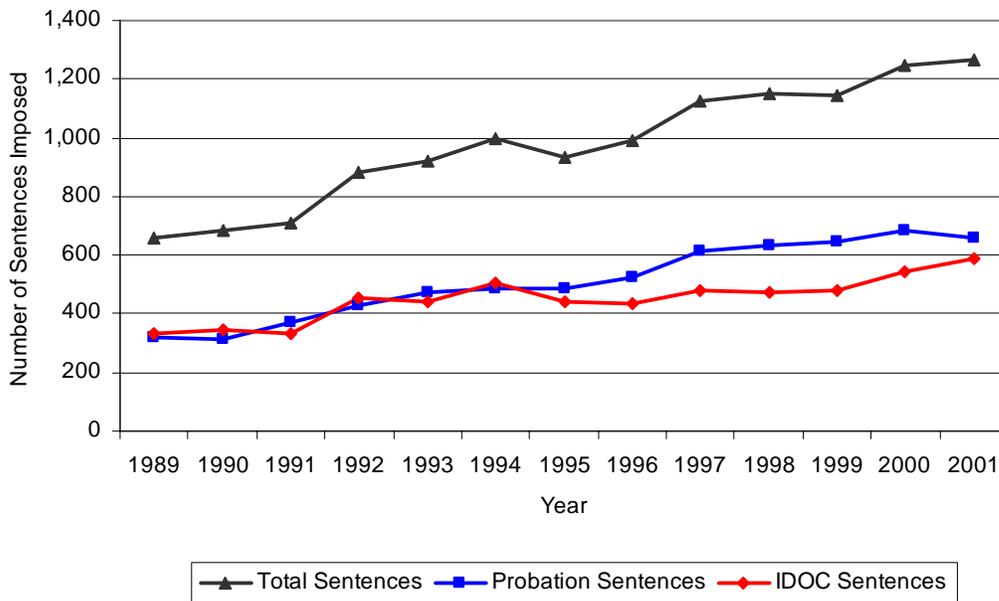
VI. Trends in Percent of Convicted Drug Offenders Sentenced to Prison

Under Illinois law, those convicted of most Class 1, 2, 3, and 4 felonies can be sentenced to probation or prison; the two most commonly used sentencing options. However, there are some exceptions. For example, those convicted of possessing 15 grams or more of cocaine, heroin, or methamphetamine are guilty of a Class 1 felony, but cannot be sentenced to probation. Such instances, as well as for all Class X felonies (e.g., sale/distribution of 15 grams or more of cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine), must result in a sentence to prison and cannot be sentenced to probation. Where a sentence to probation or prison is an option, a number of factors may influence the type and length of sentence imposed, including the severity of the crime, the offender's criminal and social history, and the safety of the community.

Between 1989 and 2001, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6 nearly doubled, from 657 to 1,264. Although the number of convicted felons sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) increased 76 percent between 1989 and 2001, from 332 to 585, the proportion of felons sentenced to IDOC decreased during the same period, from 51 percent to 46 percent of total felony sentences. In 2001, 658 probation sentences were imposed on convicted felons, more than doubled the number of probation sentences in 1989 (Figure 19). As a result, the proportion of felons sentenced to probation increased from 49 percent in 1989 to 52 percent in 2001. Sentences other than prison or probation account for the remaining 2 percent of felony sentences imposed in 2001.

Figure 19

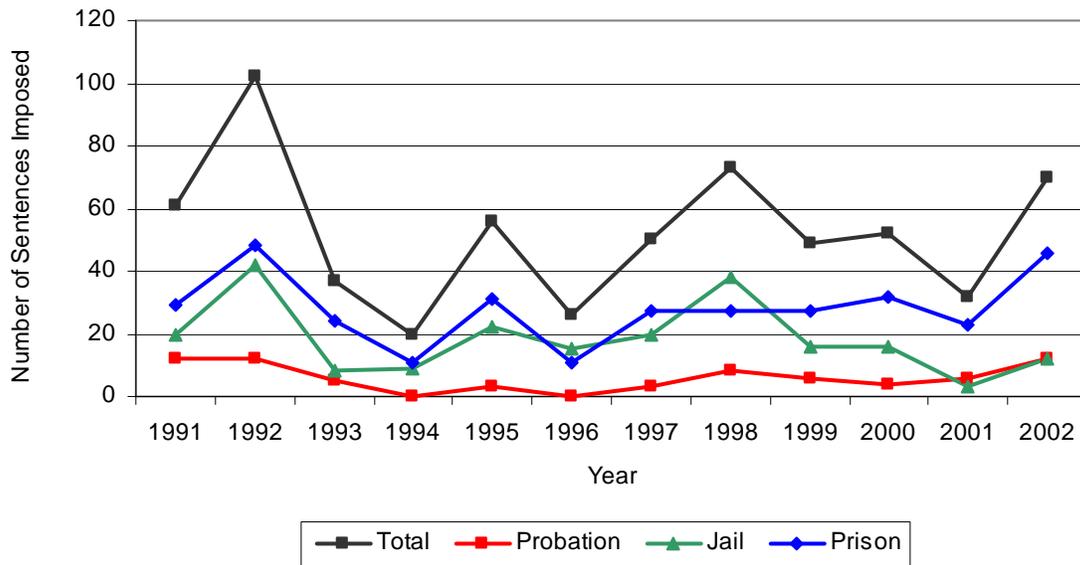
Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in DeWitt, Livingston and McLean Counties



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

During the period analyzed, the number of Task Force 6 drug offenders convicted and sentenced varied, increasing from 61 in 1991 to a period high of 102 in 1992 to 70 in 2002. Between 1991 and 2002, the number of convicted Task Force 6 drug offenders sentenced to probation remained unchanged at 12. On the other hand, the number of convicted Task Force 6 drug offenders sentenced to jail decreased from 20 to 16 (42 were sentenced to jail in 1992). Conversely, the number of drug offenders sentenced to prison increased from 29 to 46 (48 were sentenced to prison in 1992) (Figure 20). In 2002, among those Task Force 6 drug offenders convicted and sentenced, prison sentences accounted for the largest proportion (66 percent), followed by jail sentences and probation sentences (17 percent each).

Figure 20
Sentences Imposed on Convicted
Task Force 6 Drug Offenders

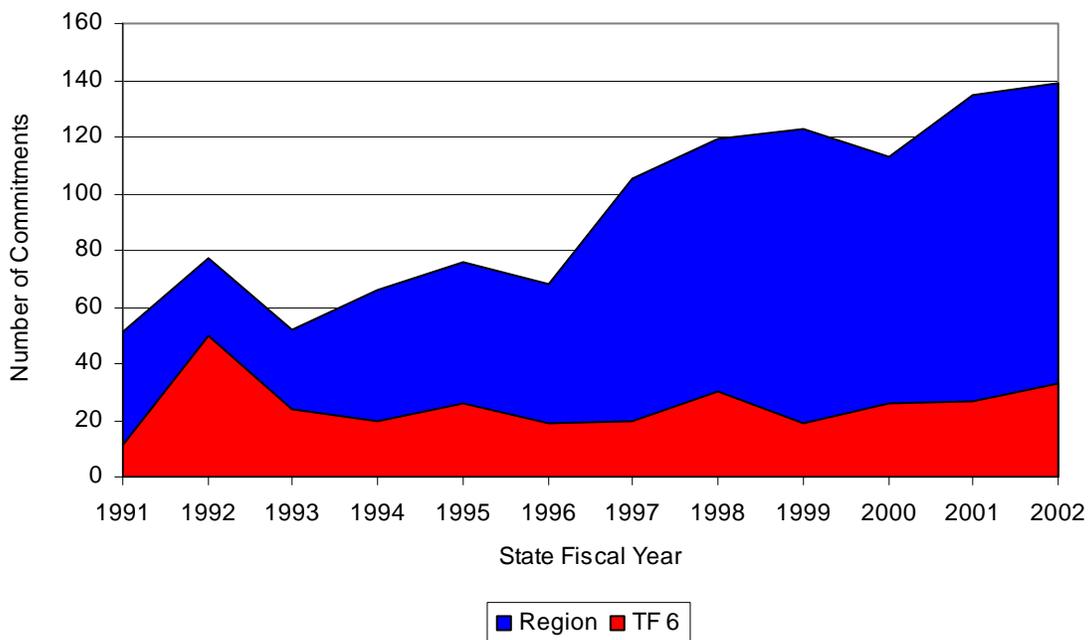


Source: Task Force 6 data

Between state fiscal years¹ 1991 and 2002, the number of new court commitments to IDOC's Adult Division for drug offenses from the three-county region covered by Task Force 6 nearly quadrupled, from 51 to 139. Between 1991 and 2002, the number of drug offender admissions by Task Force 6 also increased, from 11 to 33, while experiencing a period high of 50 commitments in 1992 (Figure 21). Thus, during the period analyzed, prison sentences resulting from Task Force 6 cases accounted for 29 percent of all drug-law violators sentenced to prison from the three-county region where Task Force 6 operates.

Figure 21

Number of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC by Task Force 6 and Region Covered by Task Force 6



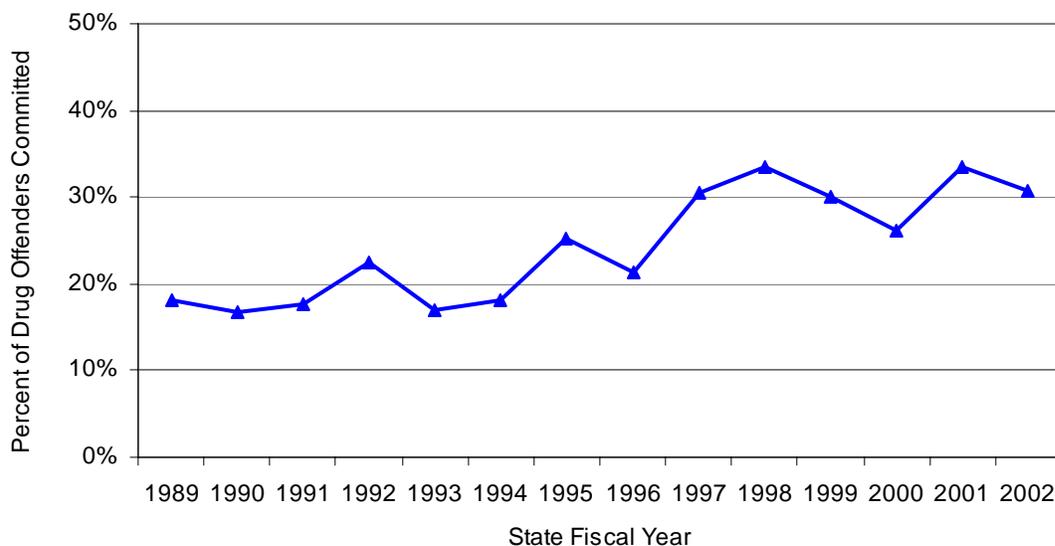
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections and Task Force 6 data

During the period analyzed, drug offenders accounted for an increasing proportion of adults convicted and sentenced to prison from DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties. In 1989, drug offenses accounted for 18 percent of all commitments to IDOC, compared to 31 percent in 2002 (Figure 22).

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

Figure 22

**Percent of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC in DeWitt,
Livingston and McLean Counties**

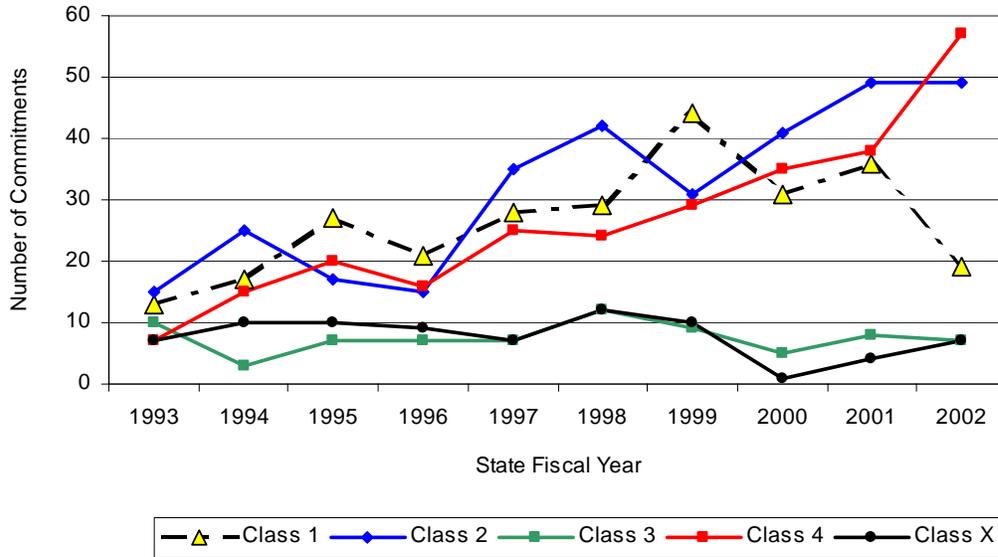


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Penalties for drug offenses were also examined between SFYs 1993 and 2002. Class 2 and Class 4 felonies accounted for the largest proportion (32 percent and 27 percent, respectively) of sentences to IDOC for drug offenses, followed by Class 1 felonies (26 percent), Class X felonies (8 percent) and Class 3 (7 percent). Between 1993 and 2002, the number of Class 4 felony sentences increased more than seven-fold, from seven to 57. The number of Class 2 felony more than tripled, from 15 to 49, while Class 1 felony sentences increased 46 percent, from 13 to 19. The number of Class X felonies remained unchanged at seven, while the number of Class 3 felony sentences decreased slightly, from ten in 1993 to seven in 2002 (Figure 23).

Figure 23

**Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC from
DeWitt, Livingston and McLean Counties,
by Offense Class**



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

When analyzing the mean sentence length for felony offenders between SFYs 1993 and 2002, the most dramatic change was for Class 2 felonies, which increased 47 percent, from 3.8 to 5.6 years. The mean sentence length for Class 1 felonies also increased, increasing 32 percent, from 5.9 to 7.8 years). Mean sentence lengths for Class X, Class 4, and Class 3 felonies all decreased during the period analyzed. The mean sentence length for Class X felonies decreased 28 percent (9.7 to 7.0 years), while Class 4 and Class 3 sentence lengths each decreased 9 percent, from 2.6 to 2.3 years and 3.2 to 2.9 years, respectively.

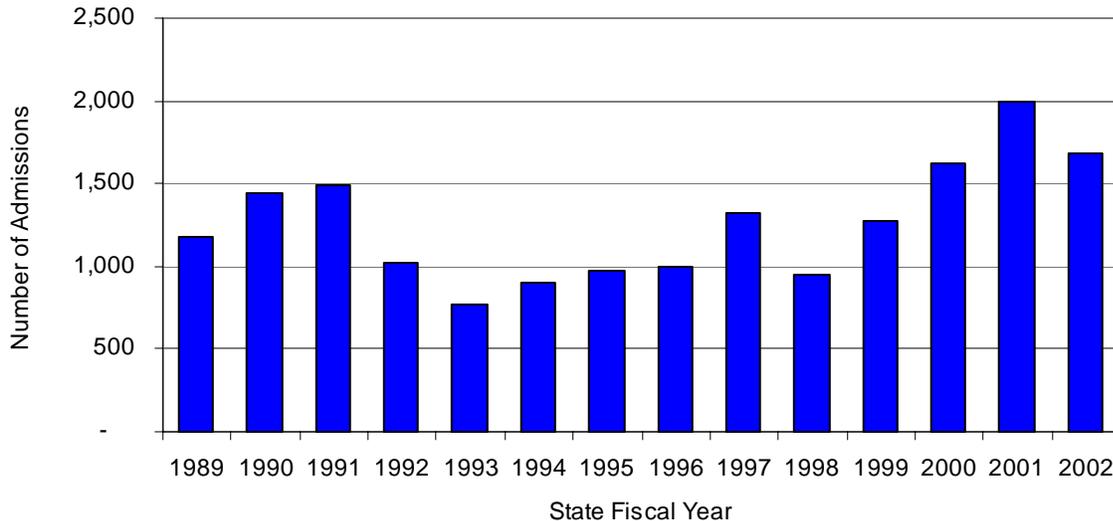
VII. Trends in Drug Treatment Admissions in Task Force 6 Region, by Drug Type

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 1,681 admissions for alcohol or drug abuse treatment from DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties, 43 percent more than the 1,178 admissions in 1989 (Figure 24). Among the 1,681 admissions to substance abuse treatment in state fiscal year 2002, 48 percent (806) reported alcohol as their primary substance of abuse, while abuse of illicit substances accounted for 49 percent of substance abuse treatment admissions.

Figure 24

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions from DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean Counties



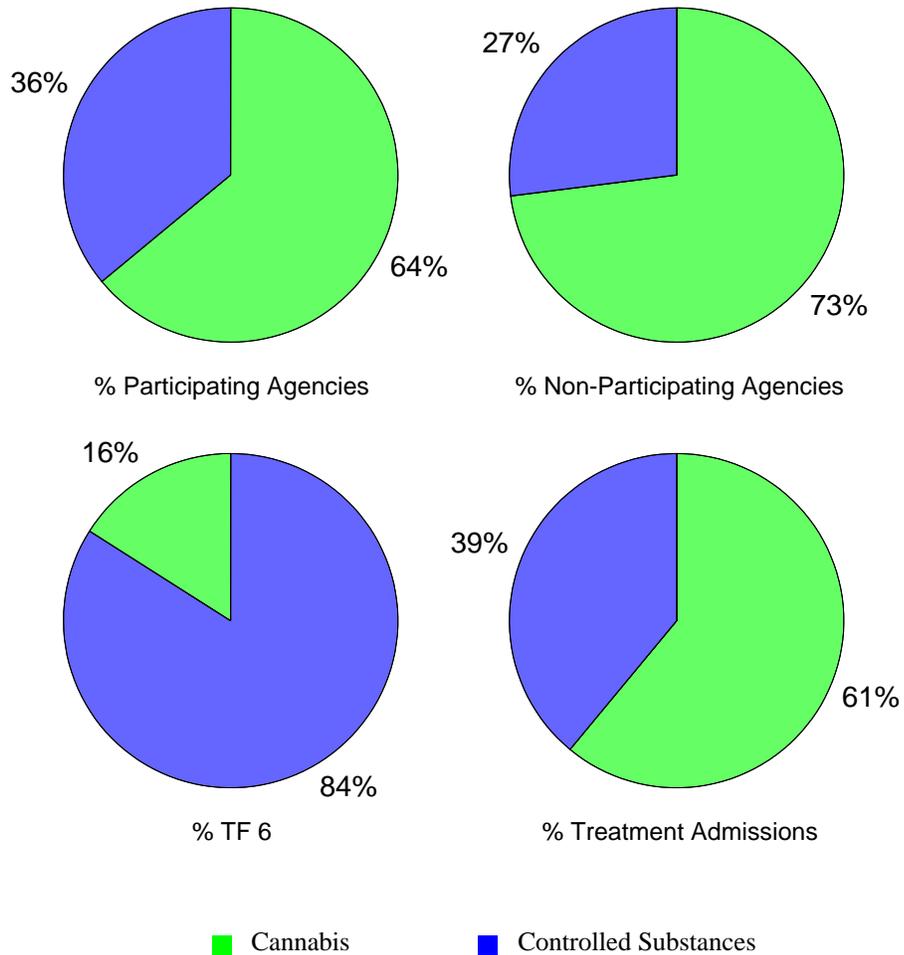
Source: Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

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 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 Task Force 6 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 participating agencies and non-participating agencies accounted for by marijuana 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 non-participating agencies and more so in participating agencies' arrests and treatment admissions. On the other hand, the majority of arrests by Task Force 6 were for controlled substance offenses. Thus, while local arrests may reflect the most widely available and used drug in the region, they tend to involve the substances individuals are seeking and receiving treatment for, but do not tend to involve the substances considered to be most serious (i.e., felony versus misdemeanor) (Figure 25).

Figure 25

Comparison of Drug Arrests by Task Force 6 and Participating and Non-participating Agencies vs. Drug Abuse Treatment Admissions in DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean Counties, 2002



Source: Illinois Department of Human Service's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and Task Force 6 data

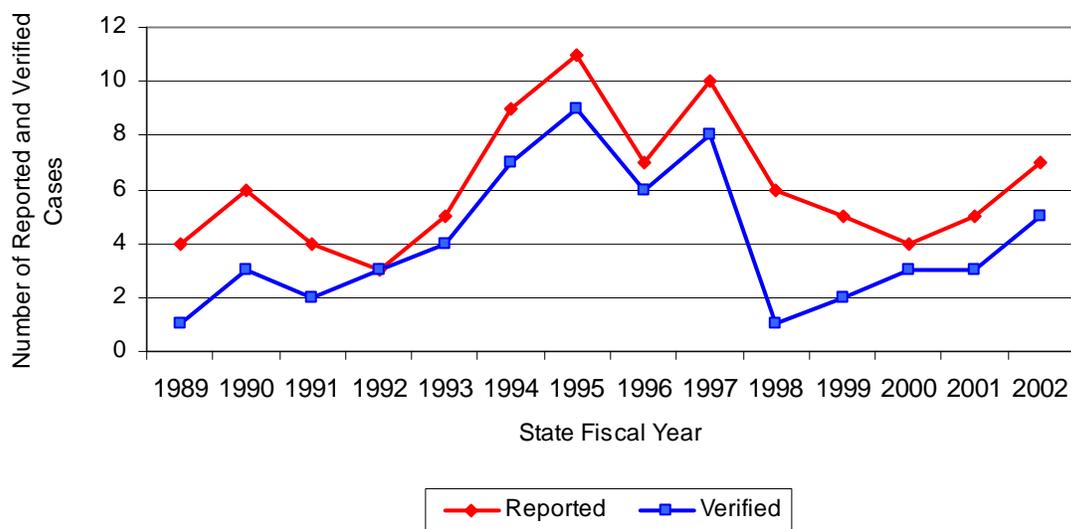
VIII. Trends in Substance-Exposed Infants

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 1995, the number of substance-exposed infants cases reported in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6 nearly tripled, from four to a period high of 11, before decreasing to seven cases in 2002. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 2002, 57 cases, or two-thirds 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 Task Force 6 region reached a period high of nine cases in 1995 before dropping to one case in 1998. However, since 1998, the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants in the region covered by Task Force 6 has increased annually (Figure 26).

Figure 26

Cases of Substance-Exposed Infants in DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean Counties



Source: Department of Children and Family Services

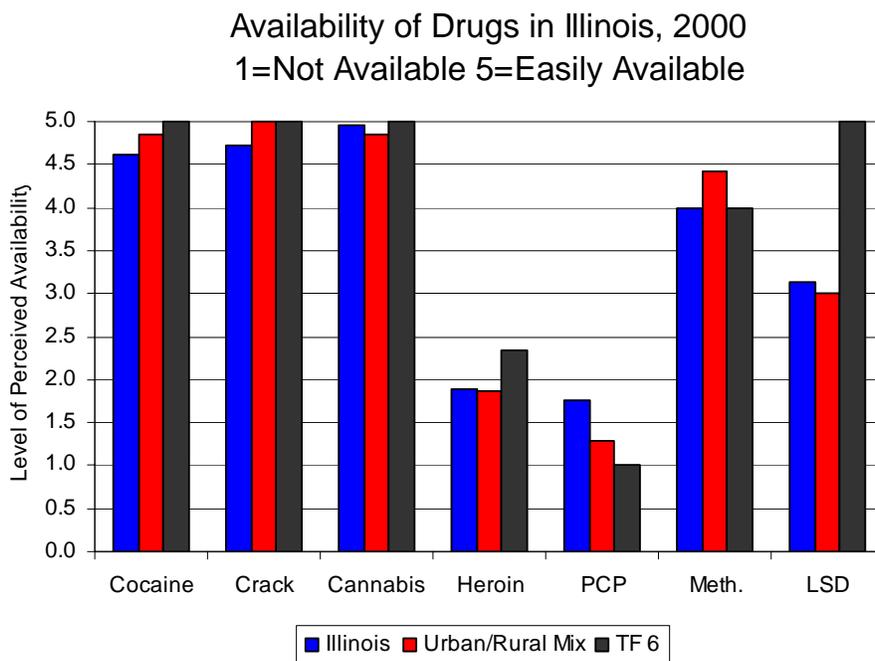
IX. Summary of Drug Situation

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 (the most recent being conducted in 2000) 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 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 responses to the 2000 survey, 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 cannabis, cocaine, and crack remained relatively unchanged since 1998, the perceived availability of heroin, PCP, and LSD decreased across those same regions (with the exception of the region covered by Task Force 6 where the perceived availability of LSD increased significantly). The perceived availability of methamphetamine increased between the 1998 and 2000 surveys and was reported as more readily available across all regions examined (Figure 27).

Figure 27



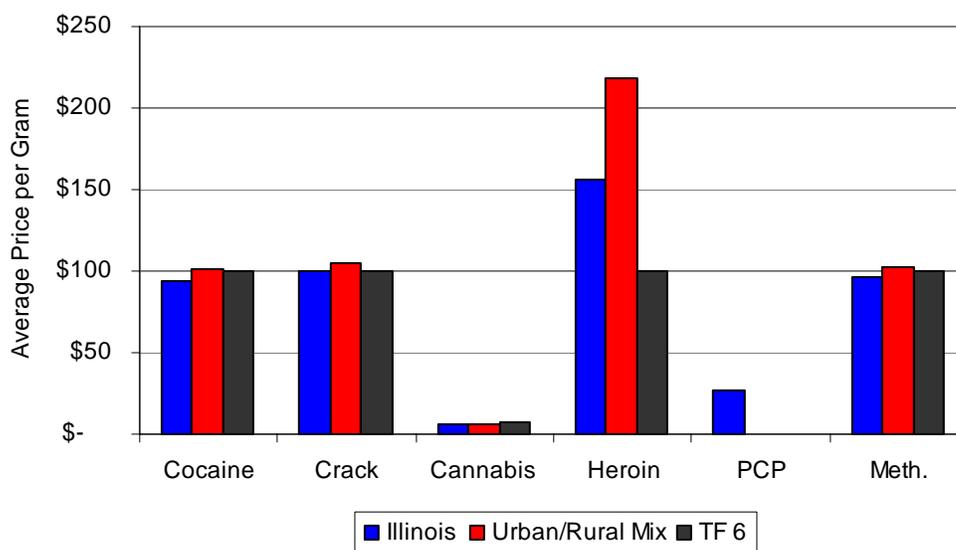
Source: Authority Survey of Illinois MEGs and task forces

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 cannabis, cocaine, crack, and methamphetamine appear to be relatively stable across all regions surveyed in 2000. The average price has decreased across all drug types since 1998 (with the exception of methamphetamine). The average price of heroin increased in the other MEGs and task forces in urban/rural mixed regions, but decreased statewide and in the three-county region covered by Task Force 6. In addition, the average price of crack increased in the region covered by Task Force 6 since 1998. According to the 2000 survey, the average price of cocaine reported by Task Force 6 was \$100 per gram, compared to \$93 per gram across Illinois and \$101 per gram reported by all MEGs and task forces in other urban/rural mixed regions (Figure 28). The average price of heroin in the region covered by Task Force 6 decreased dramatically between 1998 and 2000, from \$400 to \$100 per gram. Despite this decrease, the 2000 average price of heroin in the region covered by Task Force 6 was lower than the price of \$156 per gram across Illinois and the price of \$219 per gram reported by all other MEGs and task forces in urban/rural mixed regions. In 2000, the average price of cannabis was reported as approximately \$6 per gram statewide and in the other urban/rural mixed regions, compared to \$7 per gram in the region covered by Task Force 6.

Figure 28

Price Per Gram in Illinois, 2000

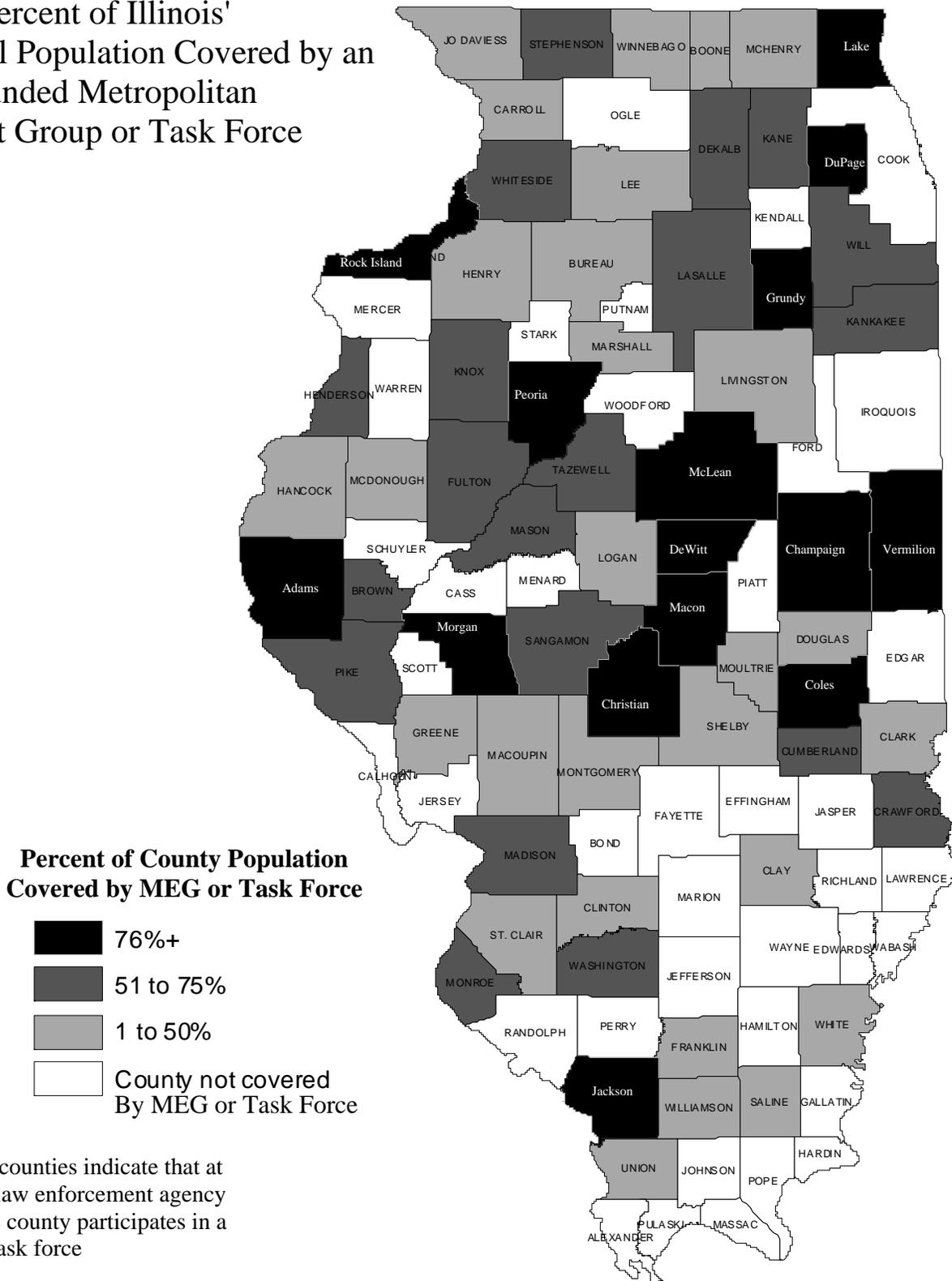


Source: Authority Survey of Illinois MEGs and task forces

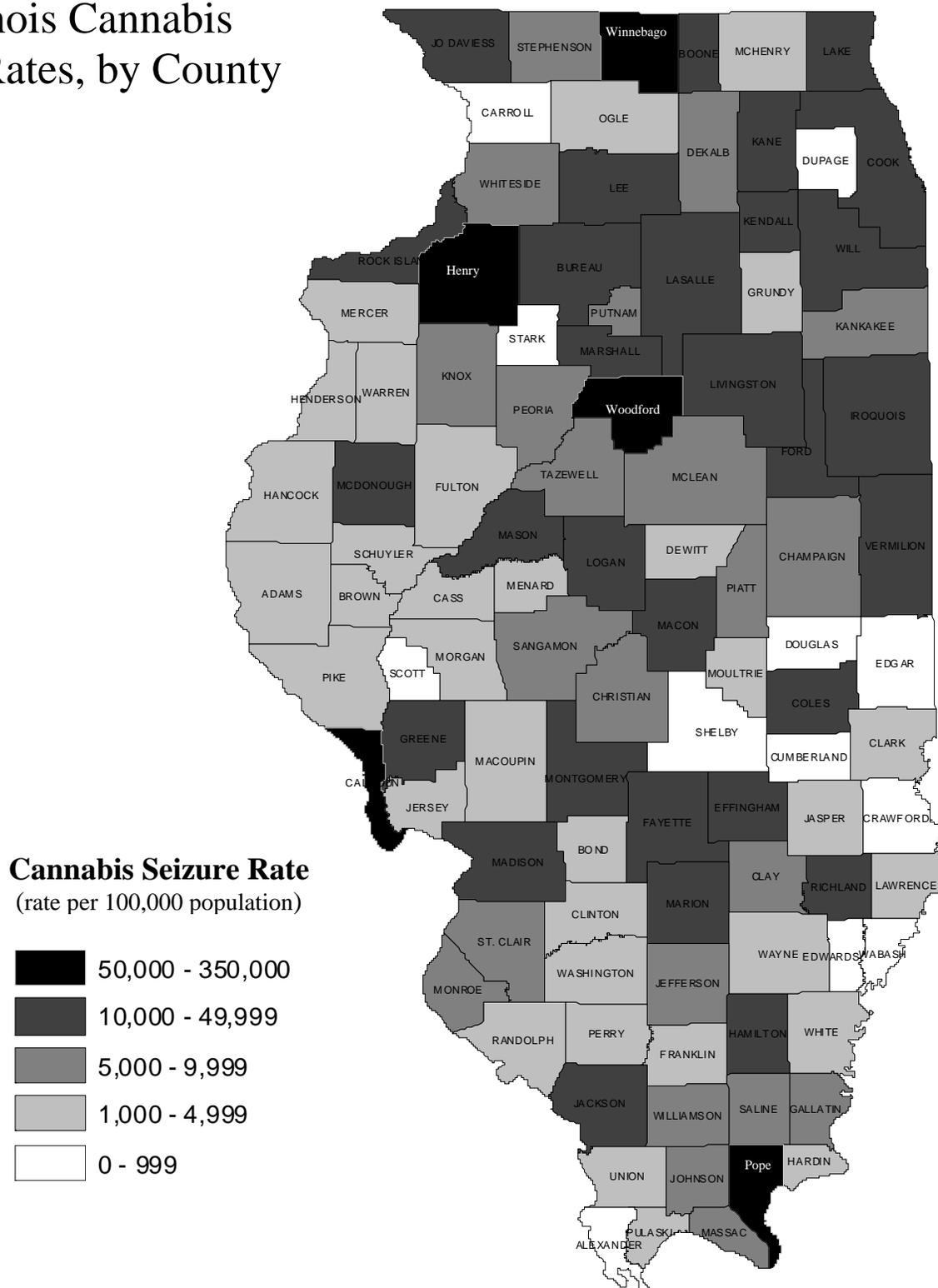
X. Appendices

Map 1

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

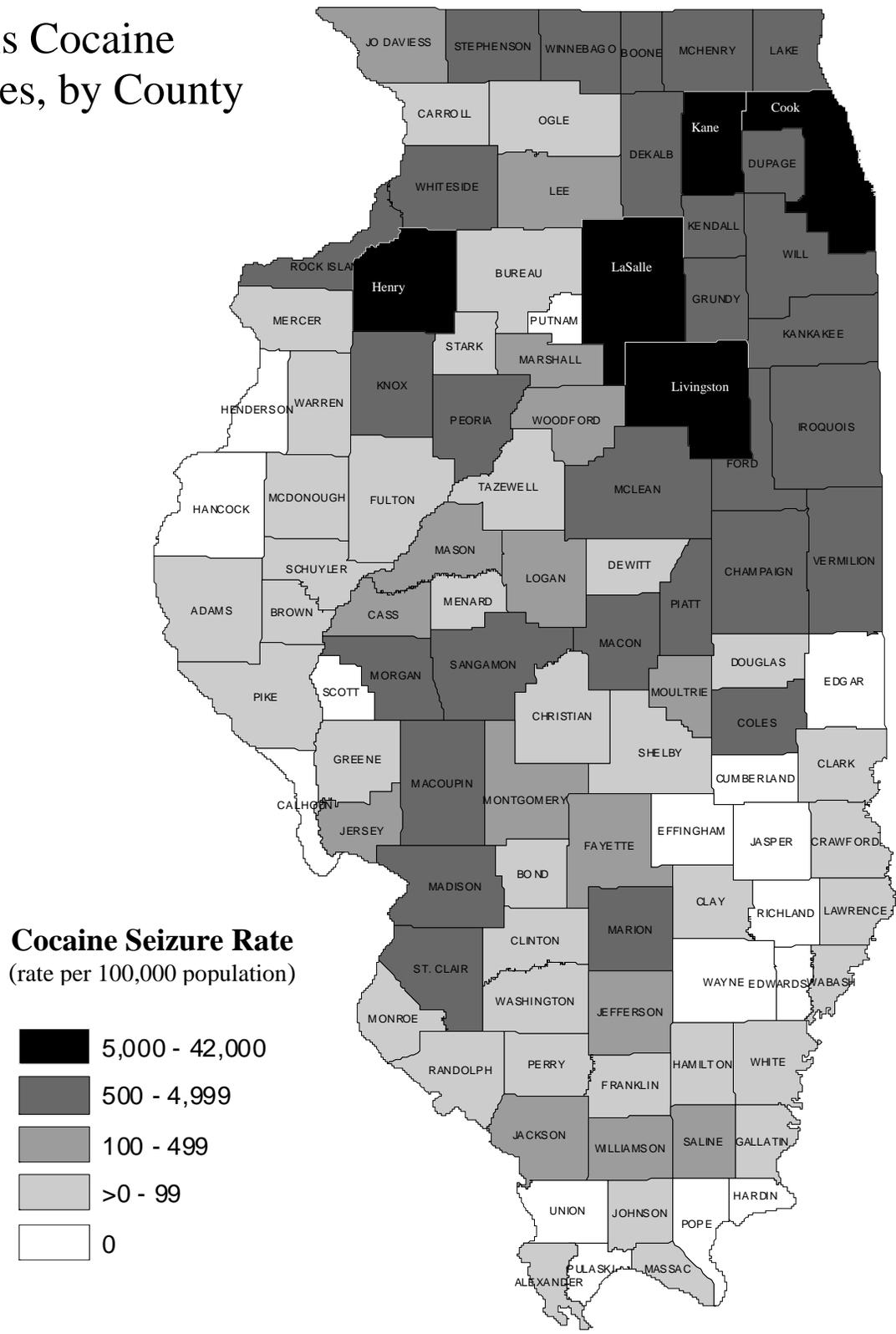


2002 Illinois Cannabis Seizure Rates, by County



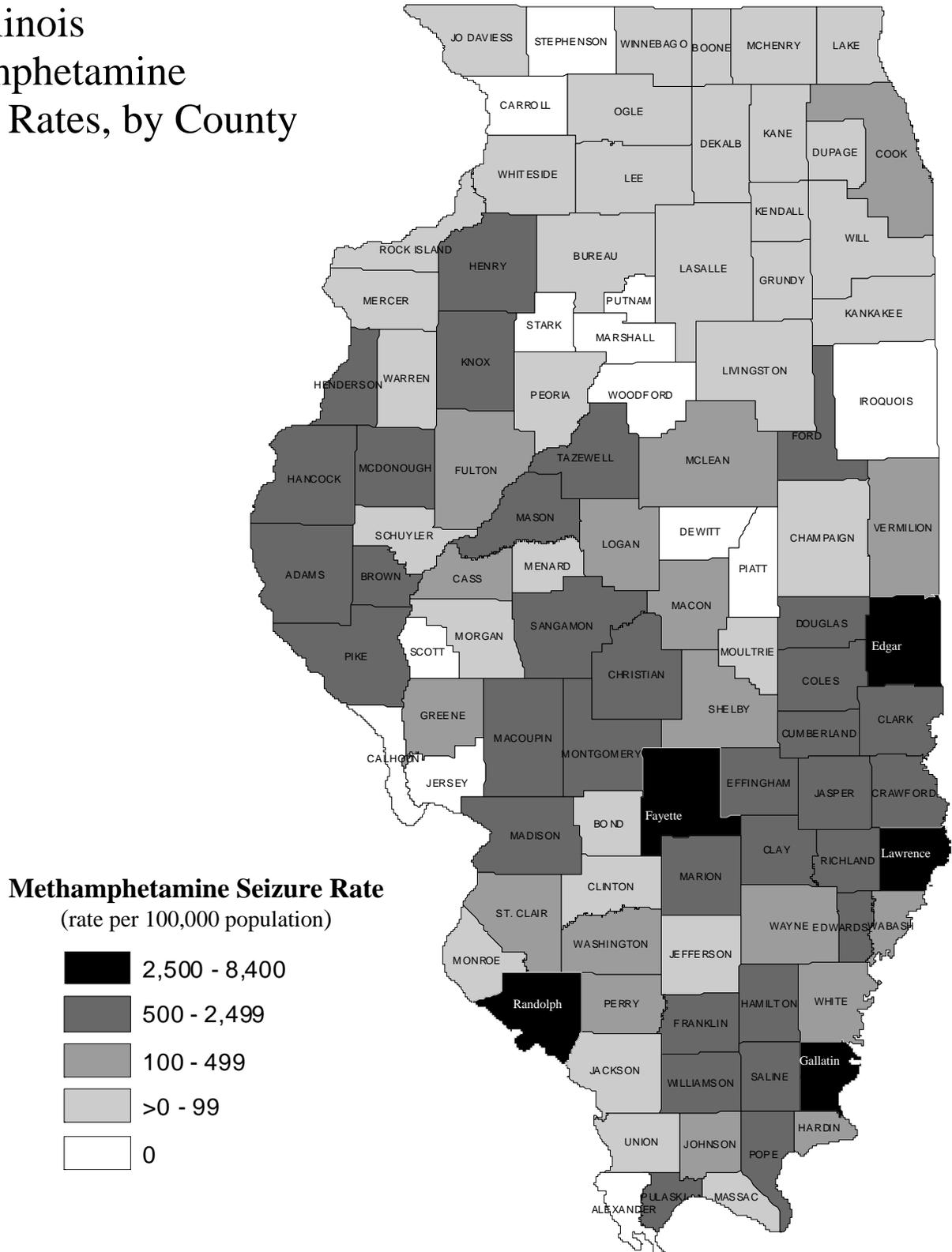
Map 3

2002 Illinois Cocaine Seizure Rates, by County

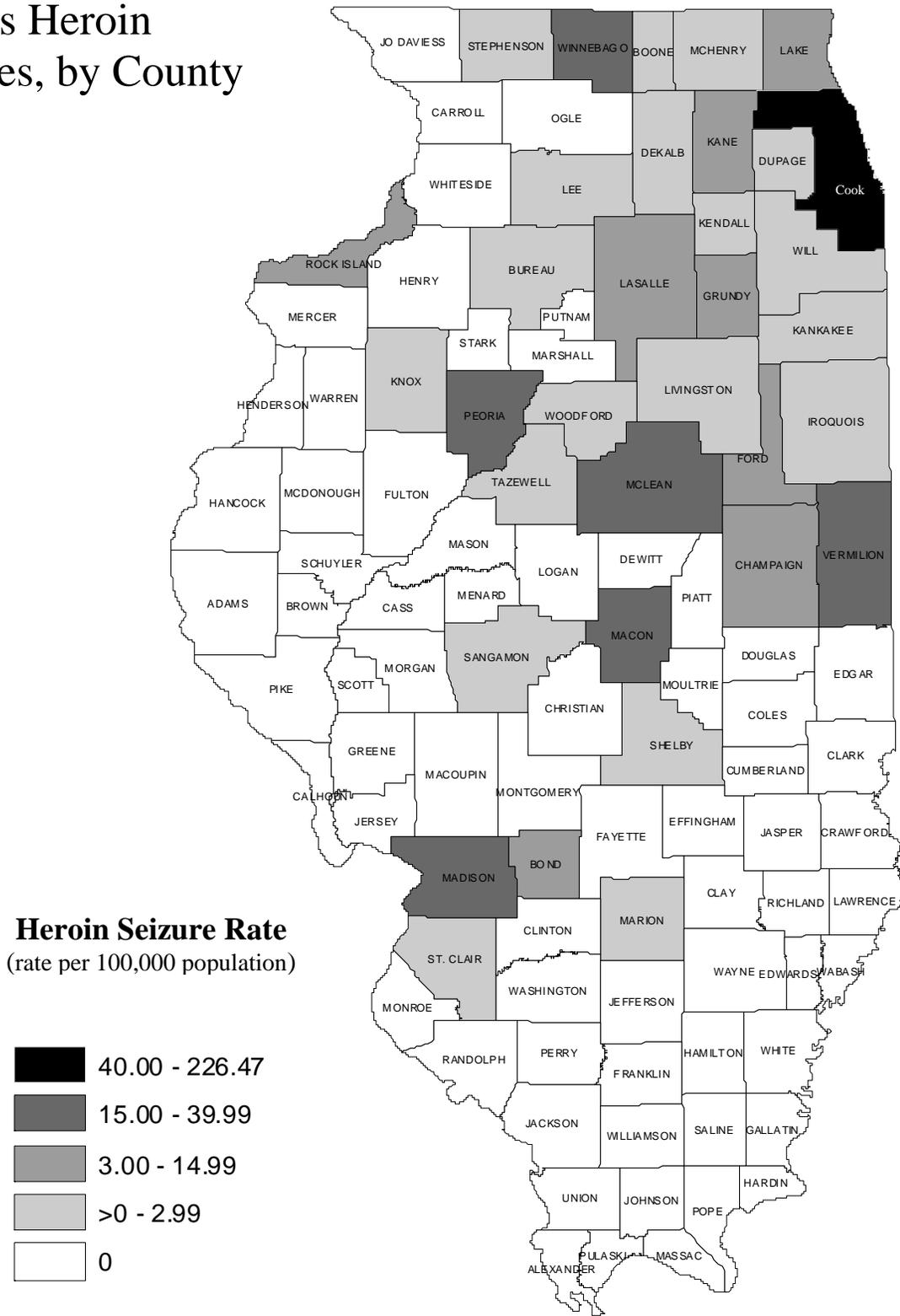


Map 5

2002 Illinois Methamphetamine Seizure Rates, by County

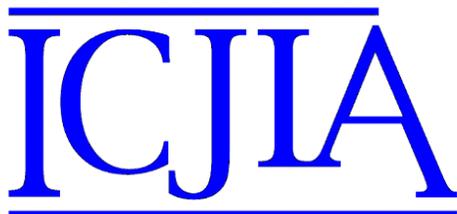


2002 Illinois Heroin Seizure Rates, by County



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