CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY



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Meeting Notice

Budget Committee

Thursday, August 28, 2003 - 10:00 a.m. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority 120 South Riverside Plaza
Chicago, IL 60606

Agenda

Approval of the FFY01 Anti-Drug Abuse Act Plan Adjustment #8

Budget Committee

> Call to Order and Roll Call

Hon. Michael J. Waller Chair

2. Project Profiles

Terry G. Hillard Vice Chair A. Vermilion County MEG

B. Task Force 6

Hon. Dorothy Brown

Old Business

Hon. Richard A. Devine

New Business

Barbara L. Engel

> Adjourn

1.

Theodore A. Gottfried

John C. Piland

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Sheldon Sorosky Chair

Richard Devine Vice Chair

Lori G. Levin
Executive Director

This meeting will be accessible to persons with disabilities in compliance with Executive Order #5 and pertinent State and Federal laws upon anticipated attendance. Persons with disabilities planning to attend and needing special accommodations should contact by telephone or letter Mr. Hank Anthony, Associate Director, Office of Administrative Services, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60606-3997 (telephone 312/793-8550). TDD services are available at 312-793-4170.

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Budget Committee Members

FROM: Laura Egger

DATE: August 14, 2003

RE: FFY 01 Anti-Drug Abuse Act Plan Adjustment #8

Alternatives to Detention 501(b)(20)

One of the key recommendations of the Criminal Justice Plan for the State of Illinois, adopted in June 2001, is that the Authority should fund and evaluate research-based innovative programs that maximize the efficient use of public resources. To this end, the Authority earmarked \$500,000 in FFY01 ADAA funds to initiate innovative probation programs. These funds must be expended by September 30, 2004.

In order to develop these programs, Authority staff convened a series of meetings with staff from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) to identify current trends in probation, current gaps in services, and specialized interventions to meet the needs of specific probation populations. From the AOIC annual plans and the ongoing monitoring by AOIC field staff, four recommendations for project needs were established: adult sex offender management, mentally ill substance abuser offender management, gender-responsive programming for girls supervised on probation, and detention to probation continuum of care.

A request for proposals was issued in May 2003 to Illinois counties on behalf of probation departments, groups of probation departments, or judicial circuits throughout the state focusing on these four areas with an option of submitting a research-based project not covered under one of these four project areas. From this solicitation, 15 proposals were submitted; one proposal was eliminated prior to review because it was submitted by a non-eligible entity.

A review panel of experts in the field of probation evaluated the remaining 14 submissions, and on August 5, 2003 convened to discuss the results. Six proposals were recommended for funding based on their cumulative scores in the areas of need, capacity to implement, and ability to provide required matching funds.

Agencies recommended for funding, what will be funded, and designation amounts are detailed in the table below.

Office	Number of Staff or Services	Type of Caseload	Recommended Designation
Will County	2 new reentry liaisons	Juvenile probation	\$70,000
4 th Judicial	2 new specialized	Adult sex offender	\$175,145
Circuit- Christian	probation officers, new	management	
County	clinical officer, computer,		
	GPS, polygraph services		
	and sex offender treatment		
10 th Judicial	2 therapists, assessment	Juvenile sex offender	\$99,000
Circuit- Tazewell	and desensitization	management	
County	instruments, camcorder		
Lee County	2 clinicians, polygrapher,	Adult sex offender	\$51,655
	counseling services and	management	
	training		
Kane County	GPS tracking system, 1	Adult sex offender	\$58,000
	part-time detective to	management	
	complete computer		
	searches, forensic laptop		
	and computer search		
	software and training		
Ford County	1 new program manager,	Juvenile probation	\$46,200
	1 new case manager,		
	training		
		TOTAL	\$500,000

Staff will discuss reviewer comments with each of these agencies and review each proposal to eliminate unallowable costs. Final award amounts may be less than the recommended designations. Staff will report final award amounts to the Budget Committee at their next meeting.

Staff will be available at the meeting to answer any questions.

BUDGET COMMITTEE GRANT DESIGNATION					
Date Designated August 28, 2003					
Program Name	Probation Continuum of Care				
Impl. Agency	Will County				
Amount Designated	\$70,000 Fund Source ADAA FFY01				
Program Area					

The Will County Probation Department is seeking funds to hire two re-entry caseworker/liaisons to develop and implement structured reentry plans for youth being scheduled for release from detention. The goal is to adequately prepare youth for the return to society and reinforce and monitor the lessons and skills learned in secure confinement.

Problem Statement

Currently, Will County has no system in place to assist juveniles being released from the detention center who are not diagnosed with a major psychiatric illness. For all other individuals, the jurisdiction offers no transition from the structured living of the detention center into community living. No reintegration process is in place for juveniles and their families subsequent to placement in residential treatment facilities or special psychiatric programs.

Goal and Objective

The goal of the program is to increase probation success rates by developing partnerships among probation, corrections and community resources to minimize the risk of failure for juveniles after being released from detention.

The objective of the program is to provide case plans for the reintegration of youth being scheduled for release from the Will County Detention Center.

Program Strategy

Two new re-entry caseworker/liaisons will be hired to develop partnerships among probation, corrections and community resources to provide assessment and case plans for supportive services for juveniles being released from detention.

BUDGET COMMITTEE GRANT DESIGNATION					
Date Designated	August 28, 2003				
Program Name	Fourth Judicial Circuit Sex Offender Surveillance and Supervision Program				
Impl. Agency	County of Christian				
Amount Designated	\$175,145 Fund Source ADAA FFY01				
Program Area	ea 501(b)(20) Alternatives to Detention				

The Fourth Judicial Circuit is seeking funds to develop and implement a comprehensive adult sex offender surveillance and supervision program utilizing two probation officers specialized in the treatment of sex offenders and one clinical probation officer providing sex offender evaluations for the circuit.

Problem Statement

The Fourth Judicial District is comprised of nine rural counties. There is no written policy that dictates any counseling or "no contact orders" within the circuit, however, 92 percent of the current sex offender caseload has been court ordered to complete evaluation and treatment. The treatment ordered varies throughout the circuit, from specific sex offender treatment to treatment and evaluation at the recommendation of the probation officer.

Goal and Objective

The goal of the program is to prevent future victimization and protect victims and communities by developing and implementing a surveillance and supervision program for sex offenders throughout the Fourth Judicial District.

The objectives are:

- 1. Hire three probation officers who will serve as sex offender specialists.
- 2. Develop and implement a uniform court order for sex offenders to be used circuit-wide.
- 3. Develop and implement policies and procedures for a sex offender program that apply circuitwide.

Program Strategy

Two new specialized probation officers and one clinical probation officer will be hired to develop and implement a sex offender program that will include Global Positioning Systems tracking, polygraph, and sex offender treatment for those sex offenders on probation in the Fourth Judicial Circuit. Policies and procedures for a uniform program for the treatment of sex offenders will be developed for the Fourth Judicial Circuit to include a uniform court order for sex offenders to be used circuit-wide.

BUDGET COMMITTEE GRANT DESIGNATION					
Date Designated	August 28, 2003				
Program Name	Tenth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Sex Offender Project				
Impl. Agency	Tazewell County				
Amount Designated	\$99,000 Fund Source ADAA FFY01				
Program Area	501(b)(20) Alternatives to Detention				

Tazewell County Court Services and Probation is seeking funds to develop a comprehensive program to provide assessment and treatment to juvenile sex offenders who are under the supervision of Probation and Court Services Departments in the five member counties of the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court.

Problem Statement

The Tenth Judicial District has a documented growing population of juvenile sex offenders under the supervision of the respective juvenile probation departments, who have been supervised and treated without consistency or specificity from case-to-case or county-to-county.

Goal and Objective

The goal of the program is to prevent future victimization through early intervention into the lives of juvenile offenders before patterns of deviancy are engrained.

The objectives are:

- 1. Create a juvenile sex offender collaboration of probation professionals from the Tenth Circuit member counties to create an offense-specific probation protocol.
- 2. Provide community-based, circuit-wide, Illinois Sex Offender Management Board (ISOMB) consistent assessment and treatment to the juvenile sex offender population of the Tenth Circuit.
- 3. Train juvenile sex offender probation officers in the ISOMB guidelines.

Program Strategy

The Tazewell County Juvenile Probation Department will spearhead the initiation of the Tenth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Sex Offender Project Task Force. Along with the contractual hiring of two clinical therapists, the task force will develop a policy and procedural manual that outlines the ISOMB guidelines for treatment, supervision and surveillance of juvenile sex offenders. New assessment and treatment will be delivered to juvenile sex offenders that not only targets their specific therapeutic needs, but also holds them accountable while protecting their communities.

BUDGET COMMITTEE GRANT DESIGNATION					
Date Designated	ed August 28, 2003				
Program Name	Lee County Sex Offender Management Program				
Impl. Agency	Lee County				
Amount Designated	\$51,655 Fund Source ADAA FFY01				
Program Area	501(b)(20) Alternatives to Detention				

Lee County is seeking funds to develop and implement a coordinated initiative, in keeping with the Illinois Sex Offender Management Board (ISOMB) recommendations, that ensures the provision of quality counseling services to sex offenders, their victims and families, and significant others.

Problem Statement

The treatment of sex offenders in Lee County is not coordinated with the victim services, so that offender treatment is not victim sensitive as recommended by the ISOMB.

Goal and Objective

The goal of the program is to provide victim sensitive treatment to sex offenders and their victims and families to prevent future victimization and protect the community.

The objectives are:

- 1. Train a probation officer to serve as a specialized sex offender specialist.
- 2. Provide victim sensitive offender treatment.
- 3. Provide quality counseling services to sex offenders, their families, and victims.

Program Strategy

Lee County will contract with a qualified treatment agency to deliver sex offender treatment that holds offenders accountable and is sensitive to victims. This agency will also offer treatment to offenders' victims and families. A probation officer will also be trained as a sex offender specialist.

BUDGET COMMITTEE GRANT DESIGNATION					
Date Designated	Date Designated August 28, 2003				
Program Name	Kane County Specialized Sex Offender Program				
Impl. Agency	Kane County				
Amount Designated	\$58,000 Fund Source ADAA FFY01				
Program Area	ram Area 501(b)(20) Alternatives to Detention				

Kane County is seeking funds to enhance the Specialized Sex Offender Unit that was implemented in 1999 by adding a specialized assessment tool, new computer technology to complete computer searches (administered by a part-time detective from the police department), and the implementation of Global Positioning System technology to track offenders throughout this large county area.

Problem Statement

Due to budget restrictions no new staff can be added to the probation staff headcount. Given the number of sex offenders and the large geographic area of the county, it is necessary to enhance the officers' ability to monitor offenders in the most efficient manner. Also, program is not currently completing accurate and specific offender assessments.

Goal and Objective

The goal of this program is to prevent future victimization and protect the community and victims from sex offenders.

The objectives are:

- 1. Train two probation officers as specialized sex offender probation officers.
- 2. Provide specialized sex offender assessments to sex offender probationers.
- 3. Provide software for computer searches of sex offenders' computers.
- 4. Implement Global Positioning System tracking.

Program Strategy

Two sex offender probation officers will be trained as sex offender specialists. A detective from the police department will be trained to complete computer forensics and Internet and e-mail examination, using new laptop and computer search software. The Abel Assessment will be purchased and added to the Kane County Diagnostic Center's assessment tools. The Global Positioning System will be purchased and implemented.

BUDGET COMMITTEE GRANT DESIGNATION					
Date Designated	August 28, 2003				
Program Name	Big Brothers Big Sisters				
Impl. Agency	Ford County Probation and Court Services				
Amount Designated	\$46,200 Fund Source ADAA FFY01				
Program Area	501(b)(20) Alternatives to Detention				

Ford County is seeking funds to implement a program with Big Brothers Big Sisters to match 25 mentors with 25 juveniles placed on probation or supervision.

Problem Statement

Ford County is a small, rural county whose largest city is 4,000 in population. There is a lack of opportunities and services within the county, and most of the juveniles on probation are without the means to travel outside the county for activities. Also, most juvenile probationers come from single parent homes and are in need of good adult role models and opportunities to build developmental assets.

Goal and Objective

The goal is to prevent future offending by matching juveniles with caring adults who help to equip youth with protective factors such as building stable relationships, communication and social skills, attachments to the community and bonding with others.

The objective of the program is to match 25 juvenile probationers with 25 adult mentors.

Program Strategy

Ford County will contract with Big Brothers Big Sisters to develop and implement their established training and protocol, and hire one program manager and one case manager. Coordination between Ford County Probation and Court Services and Big Brothers Big Sisters will complete the match between mentor and mentee.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Budget Committee Members

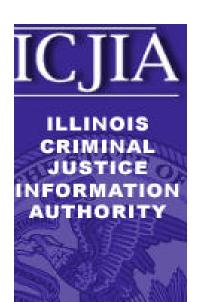
FROM: Laura Egger

DATE: August 14, 2003

RE: Project Profiles

The attached Project Profiles for the Vermilion County MEG and Task Force 6 were originally intended to accompany their respective Project Status Reports included in the materials for the July 30, 2003 Budget Committee meeting. New data became available during the time that the meeting materials were being assembled. Time constraints did not allow for these profiles to be properly updated in time for the meeting. These profiles are provided here for your review.

Staff will be available at the meeting to answer any questions.



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Prepared by

The Research and Analysis Unit

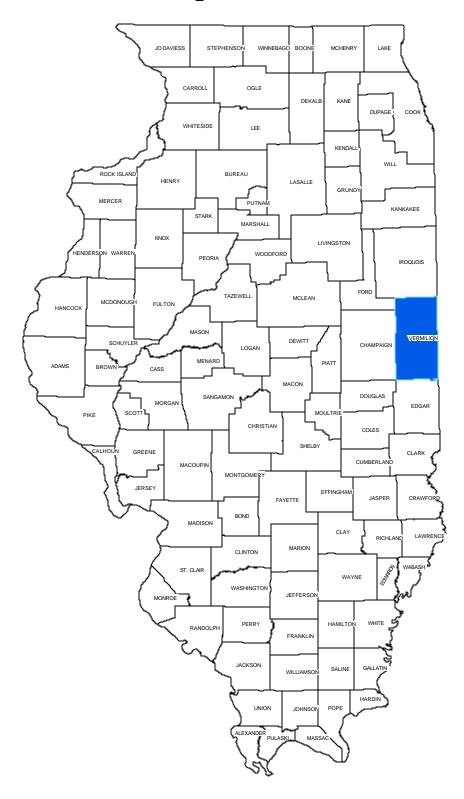
Rod R. Blagojevich Governor

Lori G. Levin Executive Director

Sheldon Sorosky Chairman

August 2003

Assessing Illinois' Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Groups and Task Forces



A Profile of the Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group

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
Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group
U.S. Bureau of the Census

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

Robert Bauer Gary Kupsak Kelly Marzano Thomas Nichol David Olson Gerard Ramker Gregory Stevens Robert Taylor

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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 VEMEG (a participating agency is defined as one that contributes either personnel or financial resources to VEMEG). Officers assigned to VEMEG (totaling nine in 2002, six from participating agencies) accounted for two percent of the total number of sworn police officers working for agencies participating in VEMEG (page 1).
- The violent Index offense rate was collectively higher across jurisdictions that participated in VEMEG than among the combined jurisdictions that did not participate in VEMEG (page 3).
- The drug arrest rate was collectively higher in those jurisdictions that participated in VEMEG than in those jurisdictions not participating in VEMEG. The drug arrest rate achieved by VEMEG during the same period was lower than the rates achieved by both participating and non-participating agencies (page 7).
- When comparing the types of drug offenders arrested by those agencies participating in VEMEG, those agencies not participating, and VEMEG, it was found that VEMEG 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 8).
- The majority of all drug arrests reported by VEMEG, 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 seized by VEMEG decreased, while the amount of cocaine seized increased dramatically (pages 15 and 16).
- Between 1991 and 2002, almost all drug arrests by VEMEG resulted in prosecution. Of those offenders prosecuted, 69 percent were prosecuted for violations of the Controlled Substances Act. In addition, between 1989 and 2002, 73 percent of all drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of VEMEG activity were convicted (page 17).

- In 2002, among those VEMEG drug offenders convicted and sentenced, probation sentences accounted for the largest proportion (59 percent), followed by prison sentences (41 percent) (page 19).
- Between 1989 and 2002, prison sentences resulting from VEMEG cases accounted for 72 percent of all drug-law violators sent to prison from the region where VEMEG operates (page 20).
- Unlike the arrests made by non-participating agencies, the arrests made by VEMEG and participating agencies tended to involve substances considered to be the most serious (i.e., felony versus misdemeanor) but not the substances for which a large proportion of community residents were seeking and receiving substance abuse treatment in 2002 (page 24).

I. Introduction

The Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (VEMEG) covers the Illinois county of Vermilion which had a 2001 total population of 83,919 – 5 percent less than in 1990. In 2002, seven local Illinois police agencies participated in VEMEG. These include the Vermilion County Sheriff's Office and the following municipal police departments: Catlin, Danville, Oakwood, Rankin, Ridge Farm, and Rossville. These agencies accounted for 75 percent of the population in the region covered by VEMEG in 2002 (see Map 1 on page 30). A participating agency is defined as one that contributes either personnel or financial resources to VEMEG.

In addition to agencies that participate in VEMEG, these Illinois counties are served by 11 additional police departments that do not participate in VEMEG. According to the Illinois State Police, county sheriffs and local police departments, in the region covered by VEMEG, combined, employed 122 full-time police officers as of Oct. 31, 2002, 101 of which work in agencies participating in VEMEG. In comparison, there were 11 officers assigned to VEMEG in 2002, including two from participating agencies and two from the Illinois State Police (ISP). Thus, the officers assigned to VEMEG during 2002 accounted for a relatively small proportion—2 percent—of the total number of sworn police officers working in the participating police departments.

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 VEMEG, 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.

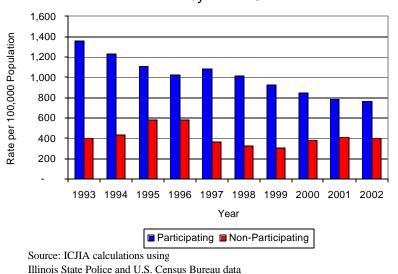
II. Trends in Violent Index Offenses and Arrests

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). 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 number of violent Index offenses reported to the police in the region covered by VEMEG totaled 568, a 42 percent decrease from the 986 offenses reported in 1993. The majority (73 percent) of violent Index offenses reported to the police between 1993 and 2002 were aggravated assaults, while 14 percent were criminal sexual assaults.

During the period analyzed, the violent Index offense rate for the region covered by VEMEG decreased 40 percent, from 1,126 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 677 offenses per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the violent Index offense rate in the participating agencies decreased 43 percent, from 1,222 to 784 offenses per 100,000 population, while the rate in the non-participating agencies remained unchanged at 406 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Thus, the violent Index offense rate was collectively higher across the jurisdictions that participated in VEMEG than across those jurisdictions that did not participate in VEMEG.

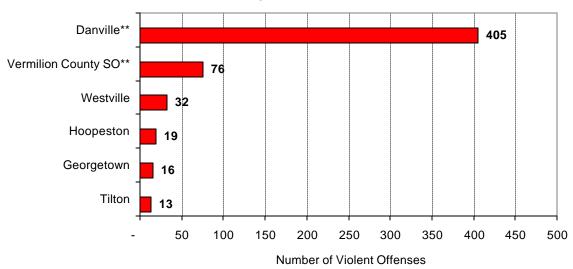
Figure 1
Violent Index Offense Rates for Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by VEMEG



Across the 18 individual local law enforcement agencies covered by VEMEG's jurisdiction, two agencies, the Danville Police Department and the Vermilion County Sheriff's Office accounted for 84 percent of all violent offenses reported to the police (Figure 2). Twelve agencies had fewer than ten violent offenses reported in 2002 and are excluded from Figure 2. When controlling for differences in the populations served by these law enforcement agencies, the violent Index offenses *rate* ranged from 1,195 violent Index offenses per 100,000 population in Danville to 48 offenses per 100,000 population in Catlin.

Figure 2

2002 Violent Index Offenses* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by VEMEG



Source: Illinois State Police

**Agencies participating in VEMEG

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.

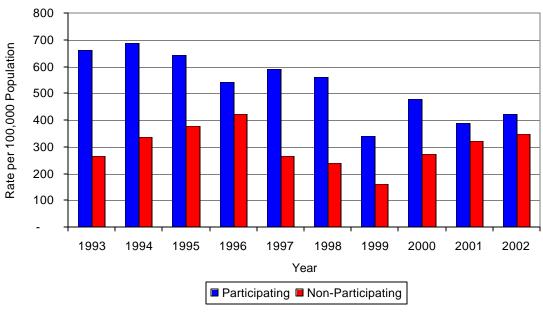
Between 1993 and 2002, the number of arrests for violent Index offenses made by law enforcement agencies in the region covered by VEMEG decreased 32 percent, from 496 to 339. As with reported violent Index offenses, the majority (83 percent) of violent Index arrests were for aggravated assaults, while robberies accounted for 9 percent of arrests for violent Index offenses.

During the period analyzed, the violent Index arrest rate for the region covered by VEMEG decreased 29 percent, from 566 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 404 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the violent Index arrest rate in the participating agencies decreased 36 percent, from 608 to 422 offenses per 100,000 population, while the rate in the non-participating agencies increased 32 percent, from 275 to 389 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

^{*}Agencies reporting ten or more violent offenses

Figure 3

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

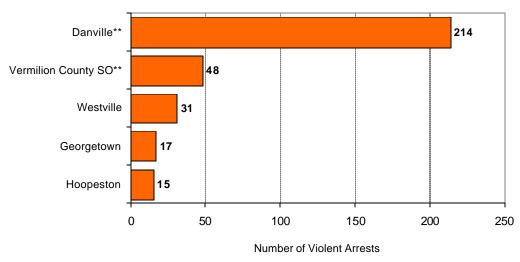


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U. S. Census Bureau data

Sixty-three percent of the 339 arrests for violent Index offenses occurring in the region covered by VEMEG were made by the Danville Police Department (Figure 4). Thirteen agencies had fewer than fifteen arrests for violent Index offenses reported in 2002 and are excluded from Figure 4.

Figure 4

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



Source: Illinois State Police

^{*}Agencies reporting fifteen or more violent offenses

^{**}Agencies participating in VEMEG

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 VEMEG reported 498 arrests for drug law violations, more than doubling the total from 1993 (233 arrests). 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 Vermilion County. During the same period, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act increased 47 percent, from 143 to 210. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act more than doubled, from 84 to 210. In addition, arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, enacted in 1993, increased from 5 in 1993 to 77in 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.

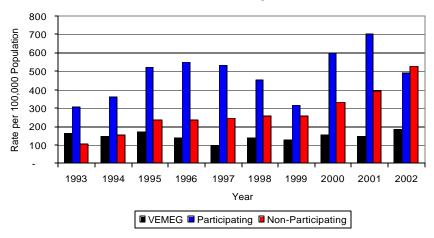
Because arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act are frequently made in conjunction with other drug offense arrests, these arrests may be double-counted, thus skewing the actual number of drug arrests. Therefore, only arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act and Controlled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

During the period analyzed, the drug arrest rate for violations of the Cannabis Control and Controlled Substances Acts combined, in the region covered by VEMEG increased 93 percent, from 259 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 500 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the drug arrest rate in the participating agencies increased 60 percent, from 307 to 492, while the drug arrest rate for non-participating agencies more than tripled from 109 to 526 arrests per 100,000 population. The arrest rate for VEMEG increased 13 percent, from 164 to 186 arrests

per 100,000 population (Figure 5). Thus, the drug arrest rate for agencies participating in VEMEG was collectively higher than the drug arrest rate achieved by agencies not participating in VEMEG. In addition, the drug arrest rate achieved by VEMEG was lower than that achieved by agencies participating in VEMEG and this difference became greater in subsequent years.

Figure 5

Total Drug Arrest Rates for VEMEG and Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by VEMEG

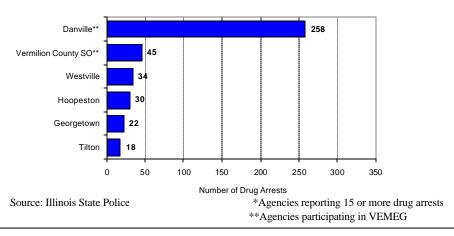


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, VEMEG and U.S. Census Bureau data

Across the local law enforcement agencies in the region covered by VEMEG, total number of drug arrests, including the Cannabis Control Act, the Controlled Substances Act, the Drug Paraphernalia Act and the Hypodermic Syringes and Needle Act ranged from zero in eight agencies to 284 in Danville. Of the 498 drug arrests made during 2002 in the region, the Danville Police Department accounted for 57 percent of these drug arrests (Figure 6). Eleven agencies had fewer than ten drug arrests reported in 2002 and are excluded from Figure 6. Among those agencies listed in Figure 6, the top two agencies, that reported the highest number of drug arrests, participated in VEMEG.

Figure 6

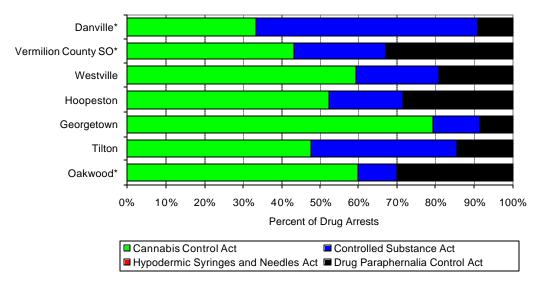
2002 Drug Arrests* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by VEMEG



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 accounted for the majority of arrests across most individual agencies in the region covered by VEMEG (Figure 7). However, for the Danville Police Department, arrests for the violation of the Controlled Substances Act accounted for over 50 percent of all drug arrests.

Figure 7

Total 2002 Drug Arrests* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by VEMEG, by Drug Type



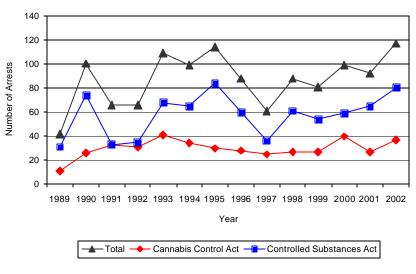
Source: Illinois State Police

*Agencies reporting five or more drug arrests

Between 1993 and 2002, the number of combined cannabis and controlled substances arrests made by VEMEG increased 7 percent, from 109 to 117 (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 VEMEG throughout all of the period analyzed. During the period analyzed, the number of VEMEG arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act decreased 10 percent, from 41 to 37, while arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased 18 percent, from 68 to 80 (Figure 8).

Between 1993 and 2002, the proportion of drug arrests accounted for by controlled substance violations increased for participating, from 39 percent in 1993 to 58 percent in 2002, and increased for non-participating agencies, from 17 percent in 1993 to 27 percent in 2002. On the other hand, for VEMEG, the proportion of drug arrests accounted for by controlled substance violations increased 10 percent between 1993 and 2002, from 62 percent in 1993 to 68 percent in 2002. Based on these data, it can be inferred that arrests by VEMEG were more likely than arrests by either participating or non-participating agencies to involved violations of the Illinois' Controlled Substances Act, as opposed to the Cannabis Control Act. One interpretation of this pattern is that VEMEG 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 offense.

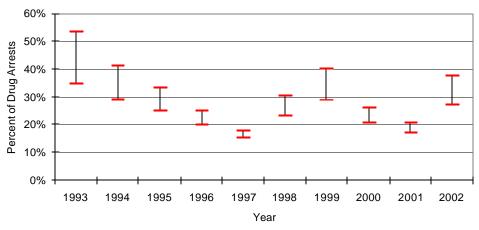
Figure 8Drug Arrests by VEMEG



Source: VEMEG

The data presented below represent the percent of total drug arrests made by participating agencies accounted for by VEMEG. 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 departments (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the VEMEG arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the VEMEG arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. It is estimated that the proportion of all drug arrests across participating agencies accounted for by VEMEG, was between 35 to 53 percent in 1993, but decreased to between 27 to 38 percent in 2002. Thus, despite the fact that the officers assigned to VEMEG accounted for a small proportion of the total number of officers in participating agencies, they accounted for a moderate proportion of the drug arrests in the region between 1993 and 2002.

Figure 9
Percent of Total Drug Arrests
Accounted for by VEMEG



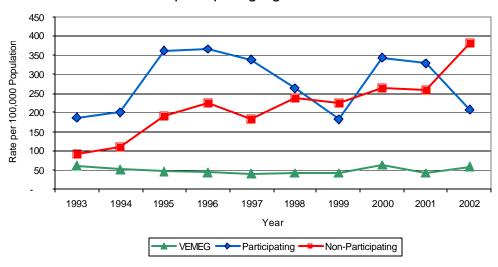
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and VEMEG

The number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act in Vermilion County totaled 210 in 2002, 47 percent more than the 143 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 region decreased 21 percent, from 63 percent to 50 percent. Agencies participating in VEMEG accounted for the largest portion (62 percent) of the total number of arrests for cannabis violations between 1993 and 2002. VEMEG reported a total of 37 arrests for cannabis violations in 2002, 32 percent of the unit's drug arrests.

During the period analyzed, the cannabis arrest rate for the region covered by VEMEG increased 53 percent, from 163 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 250 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. The cannabis arrest rate in the participating agencies increased 11 percent, from 187 to 206 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies increased from 90 to 382 arrests per 100,000 population. The cannabis arrest rate for VEMEG, on the other hand, decreased 5 percent, from 62 to 59 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 VEMEG as Reported by Participating Agencies, Non-participating Agencies and VEMEG

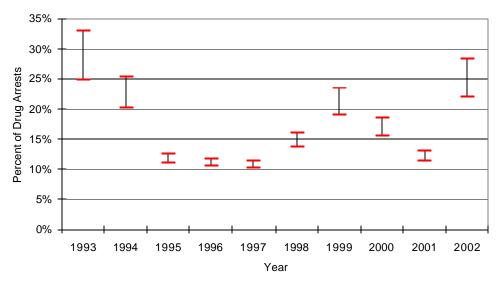


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and VEMEG data

The data presented in Figure 11 represent the percent of cannabis arrests made by participating agencies accounted for by VEMEG. 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 departments (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the VEMEG arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the VEMEG arrests are included in the local UCR submissions.

It is estimated that the proportion of cannabis arrests across the participating agencies accounted for by VEMEG was between 25 to 33 percent in 1993, but decreased to between 22 to 28 percent in 2002. The data suggest that although arrests for the violation of the Cannabis Control Act made by VEMEG in 1993 represented a moderate proportion of such arrests made in the jurisdictions of participating agencies, this proportion decreased. It is important to note, however, that there has been an upward trend since the mid-1990s.

Figure 11
Percent of Cannabis Arrests
Accounted for by VEMEG



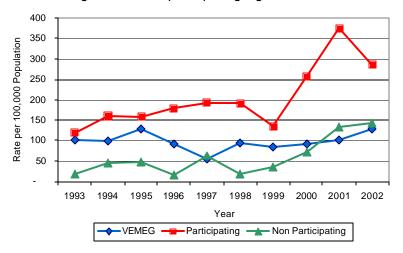
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and VEMEG data

In Vermilion County the number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Controlled Substances Act nearly tripled between 1993 and 2002, from 84 to 210. Between 1993 and 2002, the proportion of all drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act in the region increased from 37 percent to 50 percent. In 2002, VEMEG reported 37 arrests for controlled substance violations, 68 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 VEMEG nearly tripled, from 96 to 250 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). The controlled substances arrest rate in the participating agencies also more than tripled, from 120 to 286 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies increased, from 19 to 143 arrests per 100,000 population. The controlled substances arrest rate for VEMEG increased 24 percent, from 102 to 127 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). Thus, the arrest rate for violations of the Controlled Substances Act for participating agencies was collectively lower than the arrest rate for non-participating agencies.

Figure 12

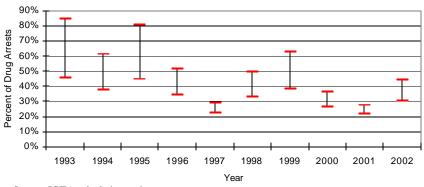
Controlled Substances Arrest Rates in the Region Covered by VEMEG as Reported by Participating Agencies, Non-participating Agencies and VEMEG



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and VEMEG data

The data presented in Figure 13 represent the percent of controlled substance arrests made by participating agencies accounted for by VEMEG. 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 departments (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the VEMEG arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the VEMEG 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 VEMEG, was between 46 to 85 percent in 1993, but decreased to between 22 to 28 percent in 2002. Arrests made by VEMEG for violations of the Controlled Substances Act represented a large proportion of similar arrests made in the jurisdictions of the participating agencies, even though VEMEG had relatively few officers assigned to the task force. When examining the three figures together (Figure 9, 11, and 13), the data suggest that VEMEG focused on arresting individuals violating the Controlled Substances Act, most of which are felony offenses

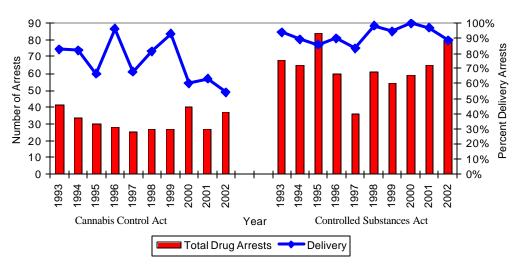
Figure 13
Percent of Controlled Substances Arrests Accounted for by VEMEG



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and VEMEG data

The majority of all drug arrests reported by VEMEG are for delivery. Between 1993 and 2002, the number of drug delivery arrests made by VEMEG decreased from 98 to 76 drug delivery arrests. Arrests for drug delivery accounted for 88 percent of all drug arrests made by VEMEG between 1993 and 2002. When cannabis and controlled substance arrests were examined separately, arrests for delivery of controlled substances accounted for 92 percent of the total number of arrests made for violations of the Controlled Substance Act, whereas, arrests for the delivery of cannabis accounted for 75 percent of all arrests for violations of the Cannabis Act.

Figure 14
VEMEG Drug Arrests for Possession versus Delivery, by
Drug Type



Source: ICJIA calculations using VEMEG data

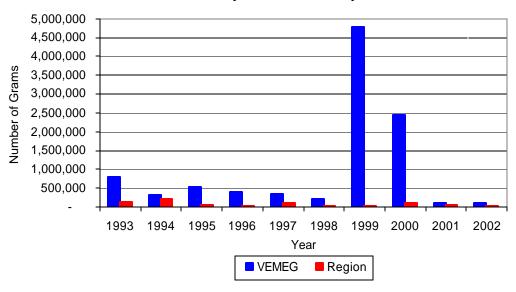
IV. Trends in Drug Seizures

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 Vermilion County as well as the quantities of drugs seized by VEMEG. It is important to note, however, that while VEMEG 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 region covered by VEMEG. The quantity of cannabis seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in Vermilion County decreased 85 percent, from 142,215 grams in 1993 to 21,182 grams in 2002, with 63,465 grams being seized in 1994, the largest amount seized during the period analyzed. Similarly, the quantity of cannabis seized by VEMEG decreased 85 percent between 1993 and 2002, from 793,498 grams to 117,725 grams, despite a significant increase to 4,789,889 grams in 1999 (Figure 15). In 2002, VEMEG's cannabis seizure rate of 186,895 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 25,242 grams per 100,000 population in the region covered by VEMEG (Map 2).

Figure 15

Cannabis Seized and Submitted to ISP by Vermilion
County and Seized by VEMEG

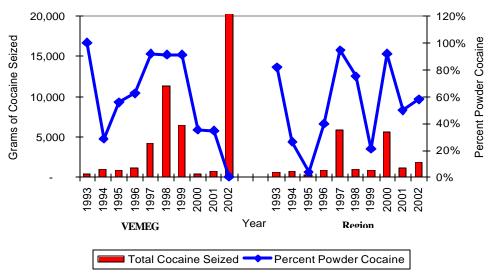


Source: Illinois State Police and VEMEG

Between 1993 and 2002, a combination of crack and powder cocaine has accounted for a small proportion of drugs seized in the region covered by VEMEG. However, the quantity of cocaine seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in Vermilion County nearly tripled, from 636 grams in 1993 to 1,888 grams in 2002. Between 1993 and 2002, the quantity of cocaine seized by VEMEG increased dramatically, from 408 grams to 168,623 grams.

During the years analyzed, the proportion of all cocaine seized accounted for by powder cocaine varied in the region covered by VEMEG and for VEMEG. Although in 1993, the proportion of all cocaine seized accounted for by powder cocaine was 82 percent of the cocaine seized in the region, this number dropped to 58 percent in 2002. For VEMEG, between 1993 and 1999 the proportion of powered cocaine of all cocaine seized dropped from 100 percent in 1993 to 1 percent in 2002 (Figure 16). However, in 1994, the proportion of all cocaine seized accounted for powder cocaine was only 29 percent, and did not reach 90 percent until 1997. In 2002, VEMEG's cocaine seizure rate of 267,697 grams per 100,000 population was 12 times greater than the statewide cocaine seizure rate of 2,250 grams per 100,000 population in the region covered by VEMEG (Maps 3 and 4).

Figure 16
Powder and Crack Cocaine Seized and Submitted to ISP by
Vermilion County and Seized by VEMEG



Source: Illinois State Police and VEMEG

The total quantity of illegal drugs seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in Vermilion County decreased 84 percent between 1993 and 2002, from 142,856 grams to 23,482 grams. Also, the total quantity of illegal drugs seized by VEMEG decreased 64 percent, from 793,945 grams in 1993 to 286,470 grams in 2002.

Between 1994 and 1998, VEMEG reported no methamphetamine seizures, however, since then, 344 grams of methamphetamine have been seized. In the region covered by VEMEG, between 1994 and 2002, 394 grams of methamphetamine were seized. In 2002, the seizure rate for VEMEG was 156 grams per 100,000 population, lower than the statewide seizure rate of 224 grams per 100,000 population, as well as the seizure rate of 290 grams per 100,000 population for Vermilion County (Map 5).

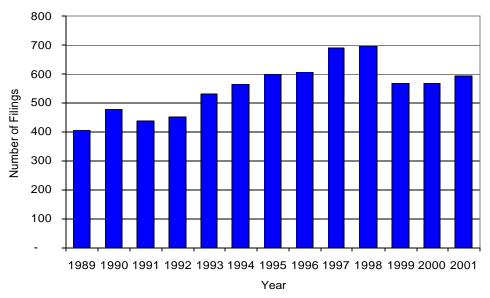
V. Trends in Prosecutions for Drug Offenses and All Felonies

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 region covered by VEMEG increased 46 percent, from 407 to 593 (Figure 17).

Figure 17

Number of Felony Filings in Vermilion County



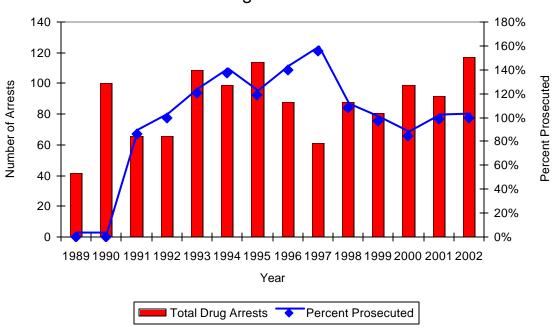
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1989 and 2002, there were a total of 1,210 drug prosecutions initiated as a result of VEMEG arrests in Vermilion County. During this time, the number of VEMEG drug arrests varied by year; however, the number of arrests nearly tripled, from 42 arrests in 1989 to 117 arrests in 2002 (Figure 18). Between 1991 and 2002, almost 100 percent of drug arrests by VEMEG resulted in prosecution. No prosecutions were reported in 1989 or 1990. Sixty-nine percent of VEMEG drug offender prosecutions during this period were for violations of the Controlled Substance Act. In some years, the proportion of arrests resulting in a prosecution exceeded 100 percent. This may be due to some differences in the timing of an arrest and the filings of charges, or could be due to the number of charges, rather than the number of defendants being reported by the unit. In addition, some offenders have charges filed, and a subsequent warrant issued, without an arrest taking place, which could also affect the number of prosecutions reported.

Figure 18

Total VEMEG Drug Arrests and Percentage of Arrests

Resulting in Prosecution



Source: VEMEG

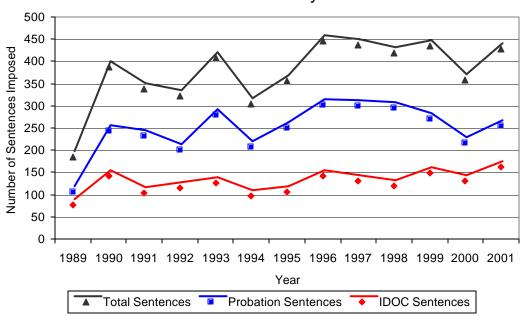
Between 1989 and 2002, 66 percent (800) of the 1,210 drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of VEMEG activity were convicted. Convictions for controlled substances accounted for 69 percent of all VEMEG initiated convictions during the period analyzed.

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 region covered by VEMEG more than doubled, from 184 to 429. Although the number of convicted felons sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) also doubled between 1989 and 2001, from 76 to 162; the proportion of felons sentenced to IDOC remained relatively stable during the same period. In 2001, 255 probation sentences were imposed on convicted felons, more than double the number of probation sentences in 1989 (Figure 19). As a result, the proportion of felons sentenced to probation increased three percent from 58 percent in 1989 to 59 percent in 2001. Sentences other than prison or probation account for the remaining 3 percent of felony sentences imposed in 2001.

Figure 19
Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Vermilion
County

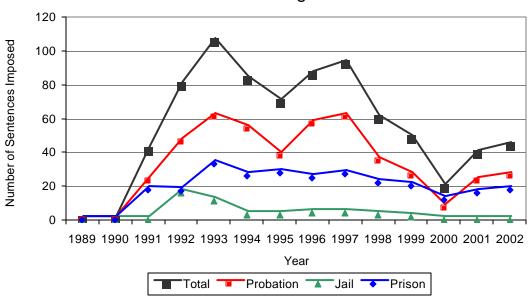


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1991 and 2002, the number of VEMEG drug offenders convicted and sentenced increased slightly from 41 to 44; however in 1993, the number of felons sentenced rose to 105 offenders sentenced. During the period analyzed, the number of convicted VEMEG drug offenders sentenced to probation increased from 23 in 1991 to 26 in 2002, although in 1993 and 1997, the number of convicted VEMEG drug offenders sentenced to probation reached an all time high of 61. Also, the number of convicted VEMEG drug offenders sentenced to prison remained at 18 (Figure 20). In 2002, among those VEMEG drug offenders convicted and sentenced, probation sentences accounted for the largest proportion (59 percent), followed by prison sentences (41 percent).

Sentences Imposed on Convicted VEMEG Drug Offenders

Figure 20

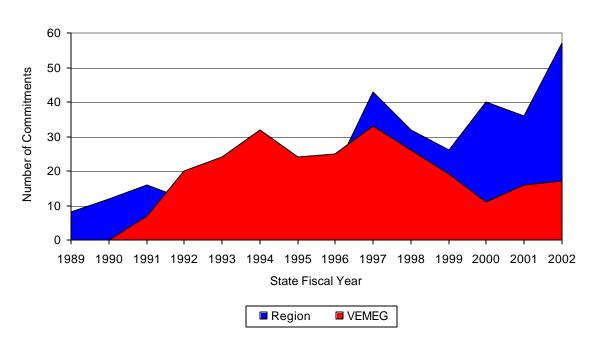


Source: VEMEG

Between state fiscal years 1989 and 2002, the number of new court commitments to IDOC's Adult Division for drug offenses from the region covered by VEMEG significantly increased, from eight to 57. The number of drug offender admissions by VEMEG also increased from zero to 17 between 1989 and 2002 (Figure 21). Thus, during the period analyzed, prison sentences resulting from VEMEG cases accounted for 70 percent of all drug-law violators sentenced to prison from the region where VEMEG operates.

Figure 21

Number of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC by VEMEG and Region Covered by VEMEG

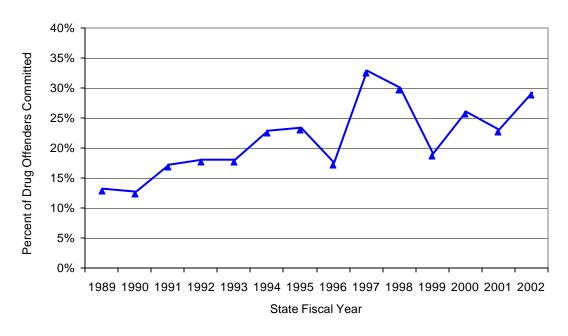


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections and VEMEG

During the period analyzed, drug offenders accounted for an increasing proportion of adults convicted and sentenced to prison from Vermilion County. In 1989, drug offenses accounted for 13 percent of all commitments to IDOC, compared to 29 percent in 2002 (Figure 22).

Figure 22

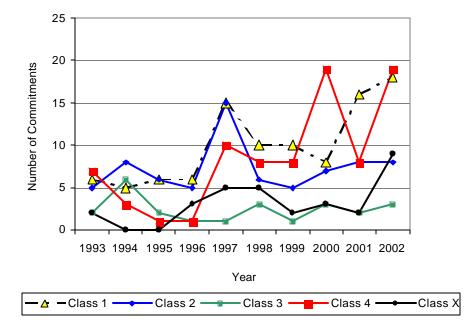
Percent of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC in Vermilion
County



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Penalties for drug offenses were also examined between 1993 and 2002. Class 1 felonies accounted for the largest proportion (32 percent) of sentences to IDOC for drug offenses, followed by Class 4 felonies (27 percent), Class 2 felonies (23 percent), Class X felonies (10 percent), and Class 3 felonies (8 percent). Between 1993 and 2002, the number of felons committed per Class remained relatively stable, except in 1997 when the number of felons held for Class 1, 2, and 4 felony drug offenses increased (Figure 23).

Figure 23
Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC from Vermilion County, by Offense Class



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Between 1993 and 2002, the average sentence length for all felony classes remained relatively unchanged, except for Class X felonies, which decreased from an average sentence length of 14 years in 1993 to an average sentence length of seven years in 2002.

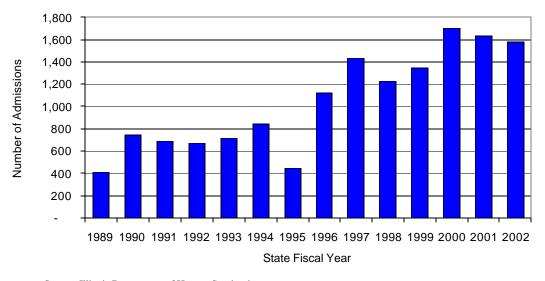
VII. Trends in Drug Treatment Admissions in VEMEG Region by Drug Type

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 1,585 admissions for alcohol or drug abuse treatment from Vermilion County, compared to the 407 admissions in 1989 (Figure 24). Among the 1,585 admissions to substance abuse treatment in state fiscal year 2002, 41 percent (652) reported alcohol as their primary substance of abuse, while abuse of illicit substances accounted for 49 percent. Eight percent reported no primary substance of abuse.

Figure 24

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions from Vermilion County

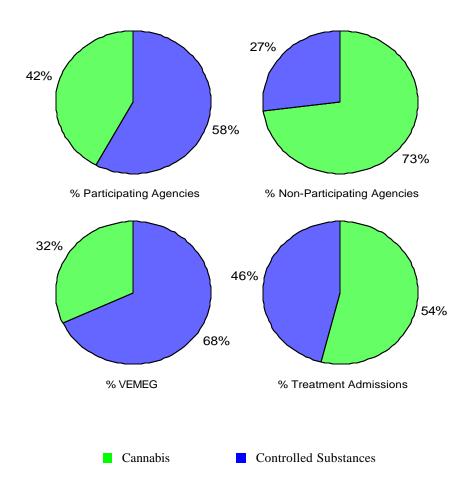


Source: Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse While drug treatment admissions can be considered a measure of the demand placed on a specific component of the human services system within Illinois, the extent and nature of drug treatment admissions could also 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 VEMEG 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 VEMEG accounted for by drugs other than marijuana (Controlled Substances Act offenses) was higher than the proportion of drug treatment admissions from the covered region accounted for by these substances. However, when compared to the arrests made by both participating and non-participating agencies, the arrests made by VEMEG were closer to the number of individuals admitted for substance abuse for substances other than marijuana. The majority of arrests by non-participating were for cannabis offenses, while controlled substances arrests accounted for the majority of participating agency drug arrests. Unlike the arrests made by non-participating agencies, the arrests made by VEMEG and participating agencies tended to involve substances considered to be the most serious (i.e., felony versus misdemeanor) but not the substances for which a large proportion of community residents were seeking and receiving substance abuse treatment in (Figure 25).

Figure 25

Comparison of Drug Arrests by VEMEG and Participating and Non-participating Agencies vs. Drug Abuse Treatment Admissions in Vermilion County, 2002



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

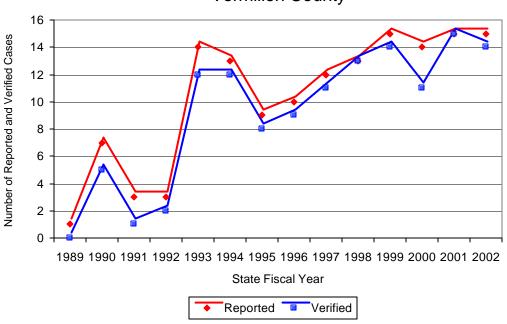
VIII. Trends in Substance-Exposed Births

Illinois continues to experience the effects of prenatal substance abuse. In Illinois, if a baby is born and thought to have been exposed to illegal substances or alcohol, either through observation by physicians or toxicology tests, the case is reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. These cases are then investigated by DCFS to verify the child's prenatal exposure to either alcohol or illegal substances. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 2002, 96 of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-exposed birth.

Between state fiscal years 1989 and 2002, the number of substance-exposed births reported in the region covered by VEMEG increased from one reported case to 15 reported cases, with the largest increase occurring between state fiscal years 1992 and 1993. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 2002, 88 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 births in the VEMEG region also increased between 1989 and 2002 from zero to 14 (Figure 26).

Figure 26

Cases of Substance-Exposed Births in Vermilion County



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 urban, rural or mixed urban/rural based upon the classification of the county(s) that each unit covers, and, for purposes of this report, are compared to the average of similar units.

According to survey responses, cannabis, cocaine, and crack continued to be the most visible drugs on the street and were all reported to be "readily available" across all regions analyzed. Although perceived availability of all the drug types examine remained relatively unchanged across Illinois and other MEGs and task forces in mostly rural regions, the perceived availability increased slightly, since the 1998 survey, in the region covered by VEMEG. Both methamphetamine and LSD were reported as moderately available across all areas that were examined, while PCP and heroin were perceived to be available to a lesser degree. However, the perceived availability of cocaine and crack was slightly greater in the region covered by VEMEG and statewide (Figure 27).

5.0 4.5 -evel of Perceived Availability 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 PCP LSD Cocaine Crack Cannabis Heroin Meth. Illinois Mostly Rural ■ VEMEG

Figure 27
Availability of Drugs in Illinois, 2000
1=Not Available 5=Easily Available

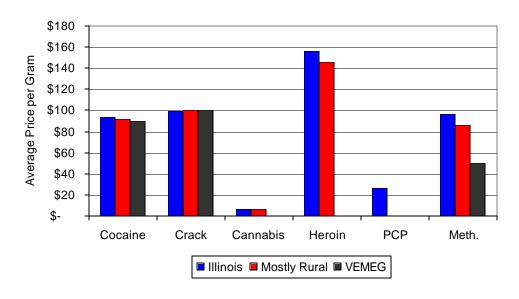
Source: Authority Survey of Illinois MEGs and task forces

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 change in the average price of all the drugs examined between 1998 and 2000, varied across all regions surveyed. The reported 2000 average prices of cocaine and crack were relatively stable across all regions. In 2000, the average price of cannabis was \$6 statewide and across all MEGs and task forces in the mostly rural regions; however, the average price of cannabis was not reported by VEMEG. Conversely, the average price of methamphetamines varied significantly across the regions examined. The average price of methamphetimines statewide was \$97 per gram, compared to \$87 per gram in mostly rural regions and \$50 per gram in the region covered by VEMEG.

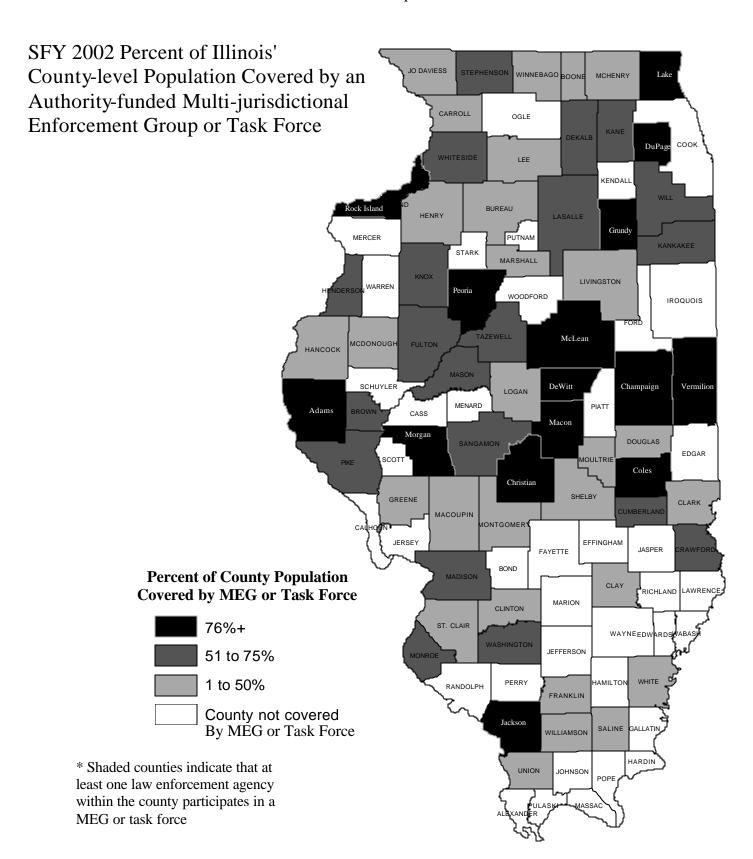
Figure 28

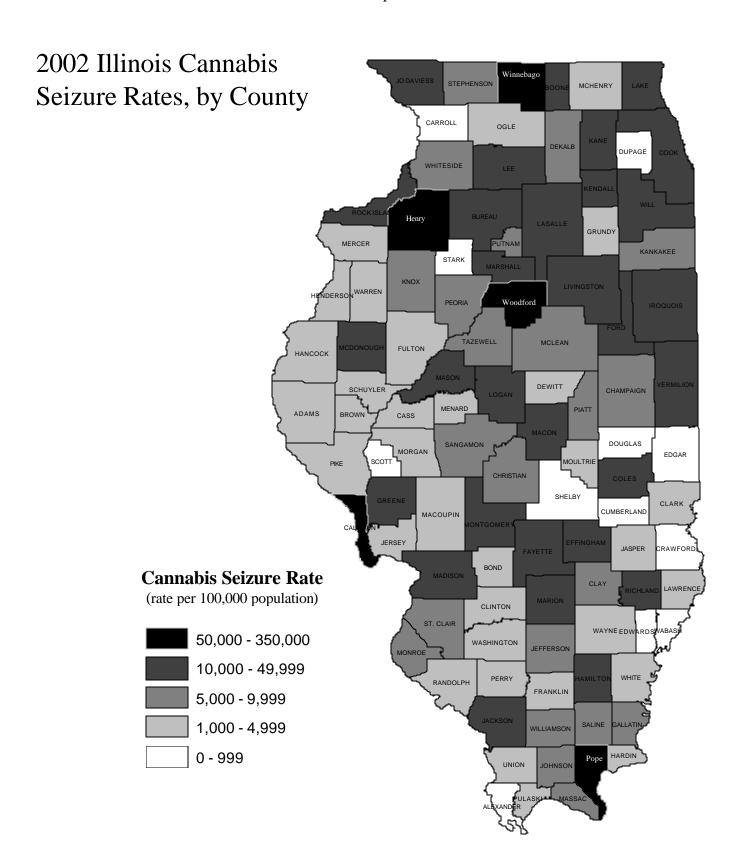
Price Per Gram in Illinois, 2000

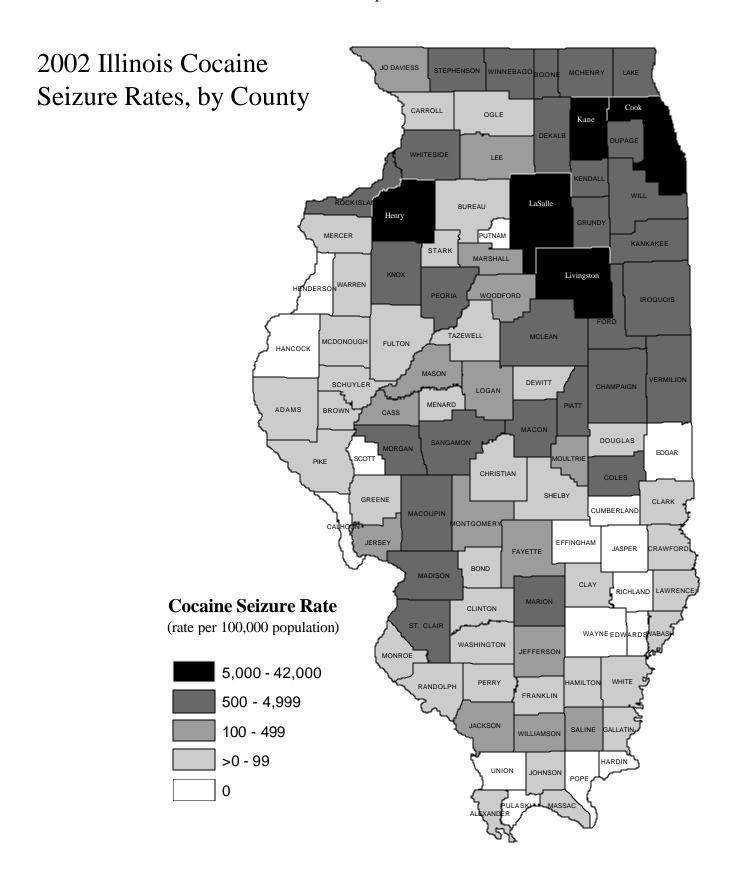


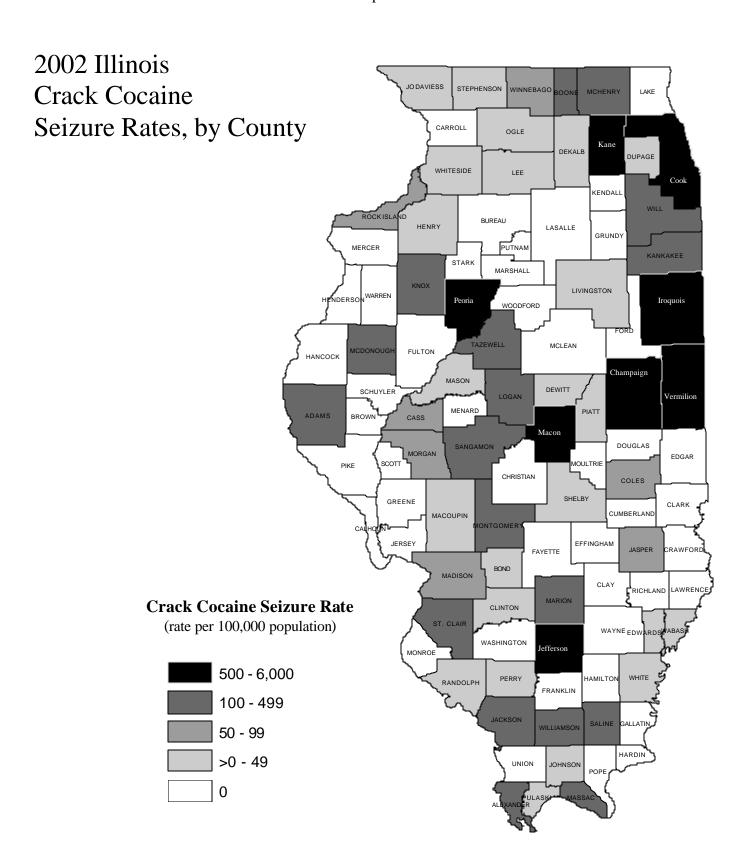
Source: Authority Survey of Illinois MEGs and task forces

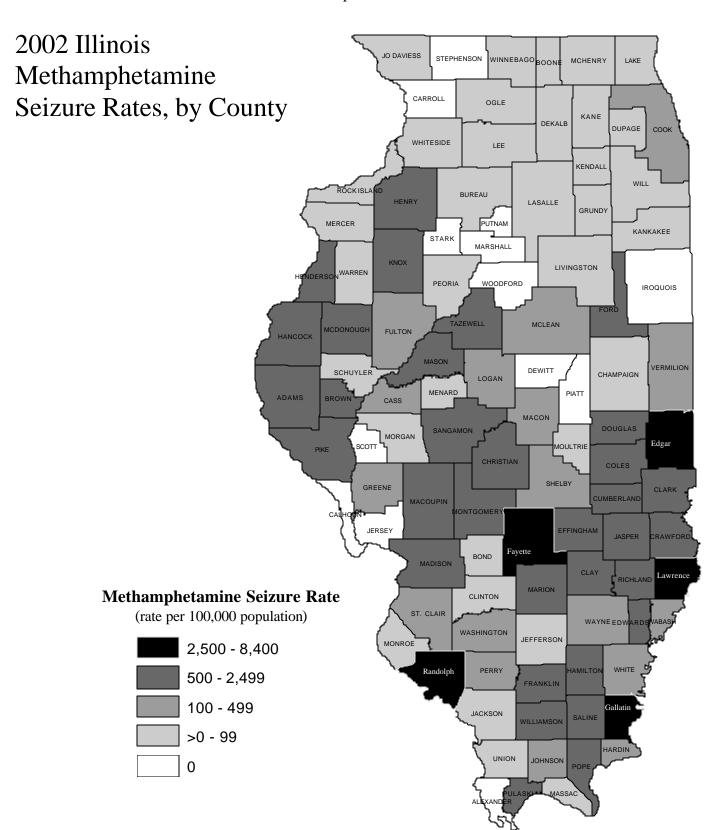
X. Appendices

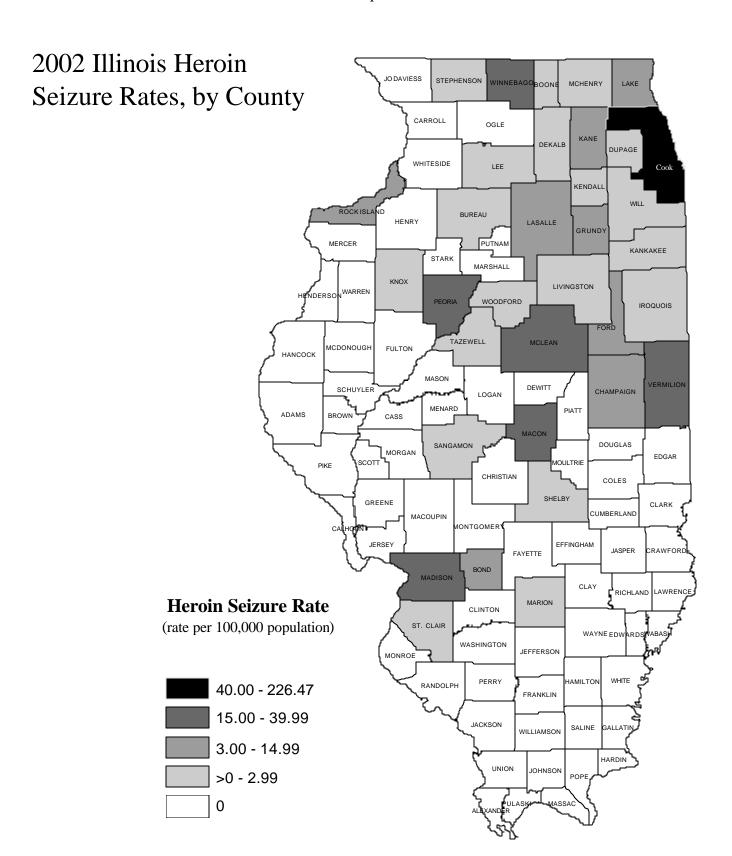












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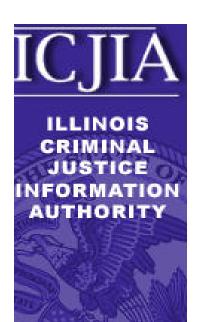
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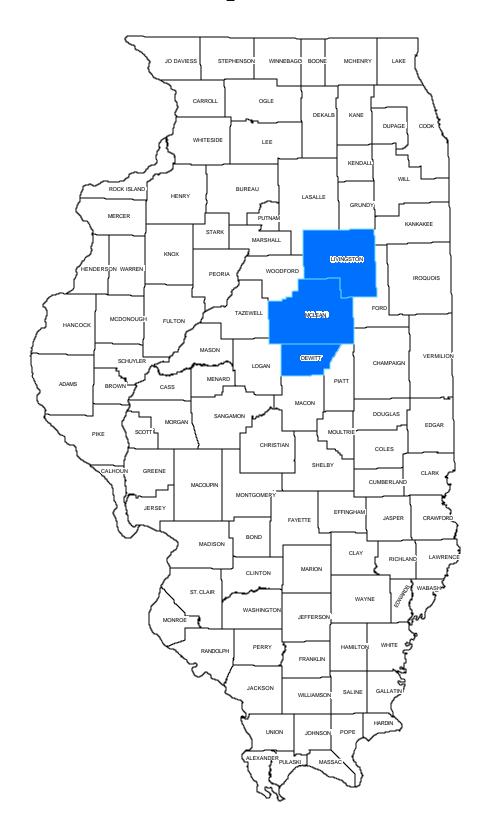
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August 2003

Assessing Illinois' Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Groups and Task Forces



A Profile of Task Force 6

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

Robert Bauer Gary Kupsak Kelly Marzano Thomas Nichol David Olson Gerard Ramker Gregory Stevens Robert Taylor

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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 nearly one-third 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 206,909 – 12 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.

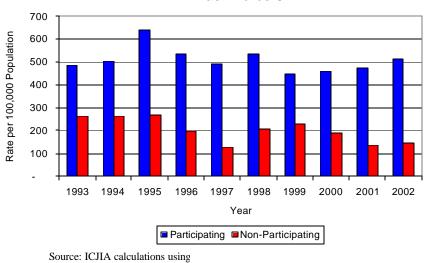
II. Trends in Violent Index Offenses and Arrests

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). 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 429 offenses per 100,000 population in 2002. Conversely, the violent Index offense rate in the participating agencies increased 6 percent, from 483 to 513 offenses per 100,000 population, while the rate in the non-participating agencies decreased 44 percent, from 264 to 147 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

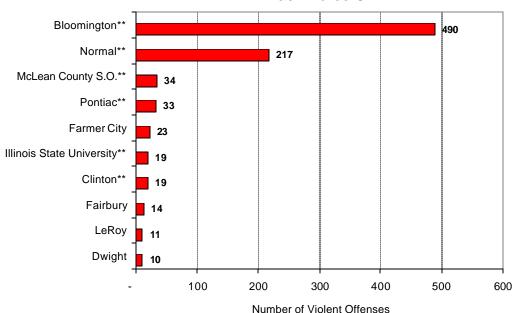


Assessing Illinois' Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Groups and Task Forces: A Profile of Task Force 6

Illinois State Police and U.S. Census

Across the 22 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 offenses reported to the police (Figure 2). Eight agencies had fewer than ten violent offenses reported in 2002 and 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 zero in two agencies to 1,119 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

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).

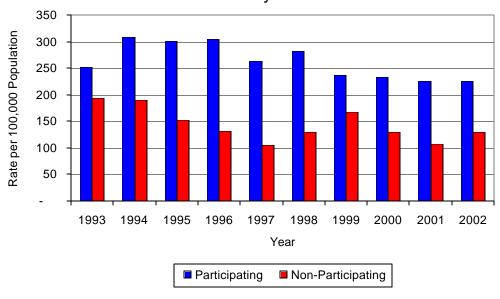
During the period analyzed, the violent Index arrest rate for the region covered by Task Force 6 decreased 15 percent, from 237 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 203 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the violent Index arrest rate in the participating agencies decreased 10 percent, from 251 to 225 offenses per 100,000 population, while the rate in the non-participating agencies decreased 33 percent, from 194 to 130 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

^{*}Agencies reporting ten or more violent offenses

^{**}Agencies participating in TF 6

Figure 3

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

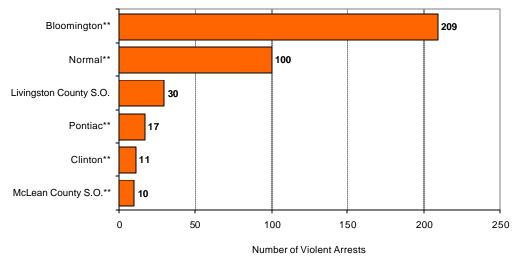


Source: ICJIA calculations using

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. Twelve agencies had fewer than ten arrests for violent Index offenses reported in 2002 and 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 offenses

**Agencies participating in TF 6

Assessing Illinois' Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Groups and Task Forces: A Profile of Task Force 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. The majority of cannabis and drug paraphernalia offenses encountered by police, on the other hand, tend to be misdemeanor-level offenses.

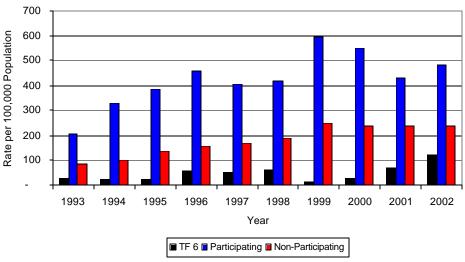
In 2002, local law enforcement agencies in the counties covered by Task Force 6 reported 1,168 arrests for drug law violations, more than triple the number reported for 1993 (313 arrests). Between 1993 and 2002, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act consistently out-numbered arrests 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 574. 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 and Controlled Substances Acts combined, in the region covered by Task Force 6 more than doubled, from 179 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 427 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the drug arrest rate in the participating agencies increased from 208 to 483, while the drug arrest rate for non-participating agencies increased from 87 to 239 arrests per 100,000 population. Meanwhile, the arrest rate for Task Force 6 more than quadrupled between 1993 and 2002, from 27 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

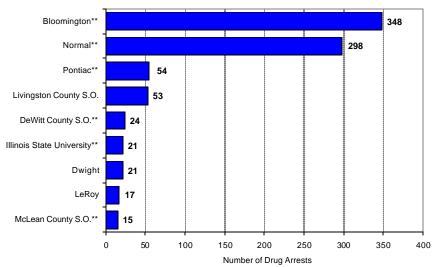


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, Task Force 6 and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 488. 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

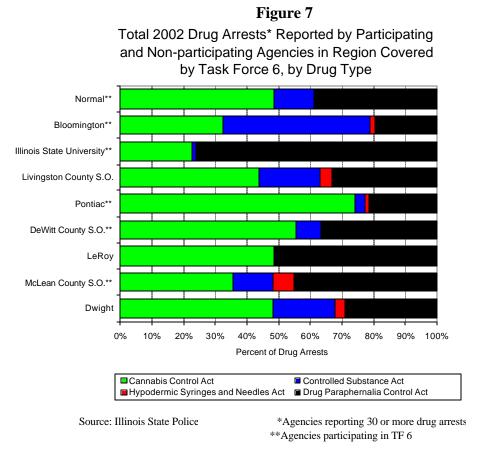


Source: Illinois State Police

*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).

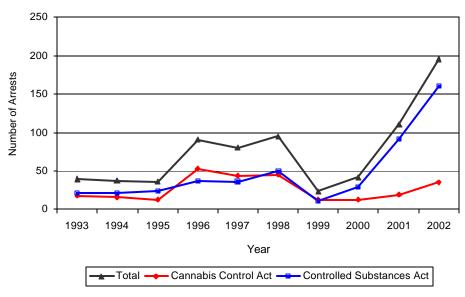


Between 1993 and 2002, the number of combined cannabis and controlled substances arrests made by Task Force 6 decreased 55 percent, from 58 to 26 (Figure 8). Unlike drug arrests made by most local police departments in the region, violations of the Controlled Substances Act accounted for the majority 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

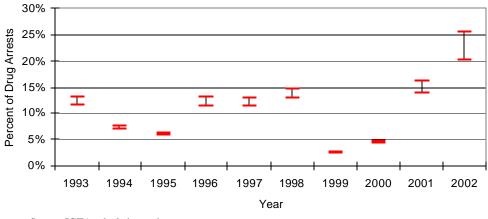
Drug Arrests by Task Force 6



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

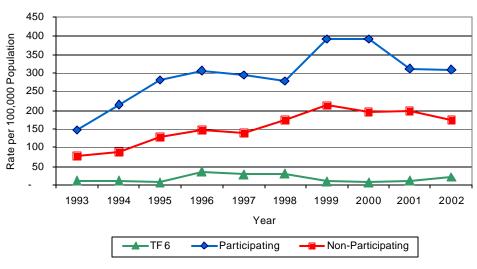


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and Task Force 6 The number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act in DeWitt, Livingston, and McLean counties totaled 574 in 2002, more than double the 252 arrests made for cannabis violations in 1993. Between 1993 and 2002, 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 277 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. The cannabis arrest rate in the participating agencies also more than doubled, from 148 to 308 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies more than doubled from 78 to 174 arrests per 100,000 population. The cannabis arrest rate for Task Force 6, increased 78 percent, from 12 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, Nonparticipating Agencies and Task Force 6

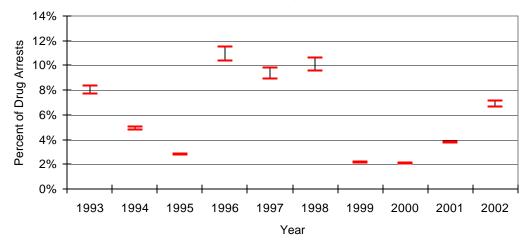


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and Task Force 6

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



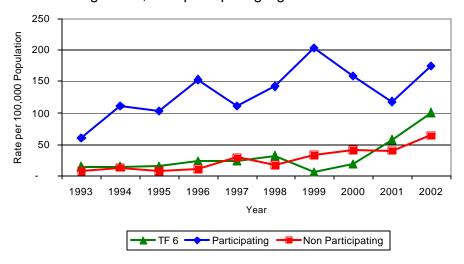
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and Task Force 6

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 149 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). The controlled substances arrest rate in the participating agencies nearly tripled, from 60 to 175 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies increased more than six-fold, from nine to 65 arrests per 100,000 population. The controlled substances arrest rate for Task Force 6 increased nearly six-fold, from 15 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

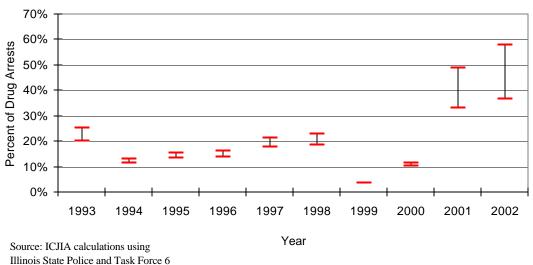


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and Task Force 6

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



Assessing Illinois' Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Groups and Task Forces: A Profile of 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 60 100% 90% 50 80% Percent Delivery Arrests Number of Arrests 70% 40 60% 30 50% 40% 20 30% 20% 10 10% 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 2000 2001 Year Cannabis Control Act Controlled Substances Act Delivery Total Drug Arrests

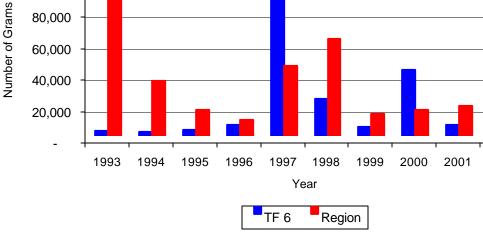
Source: ICJIA calculations using Task Force 6 data

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).

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

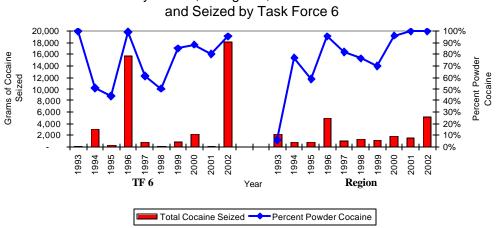
2002

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



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).

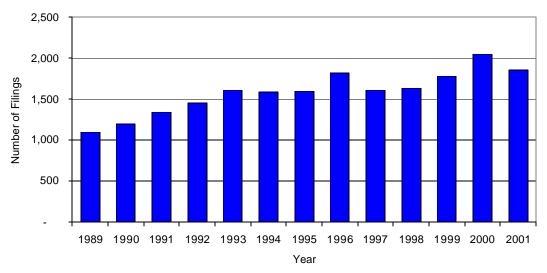
V. Trends in Prosecutions for Drug Offenses and All Felonies

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



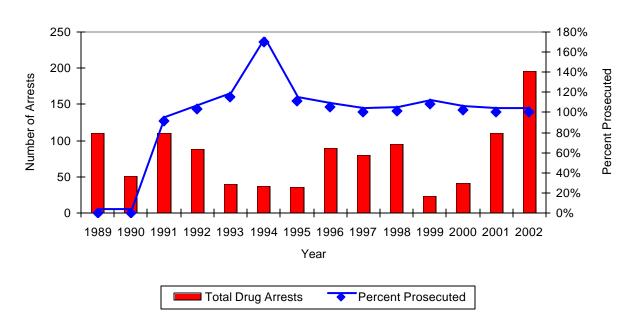
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

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 78 percent, from 110 arrests in 1989 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

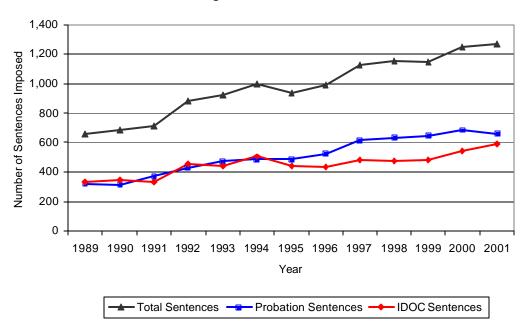
Between 1991 and 2002, 63 percent (628) of the 990 drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of Task Force 6 activity were convicted. Convictions for controlled substances accounted for 64 percent of all Task Force 6 initiated convictions during the period analyzed.

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

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 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

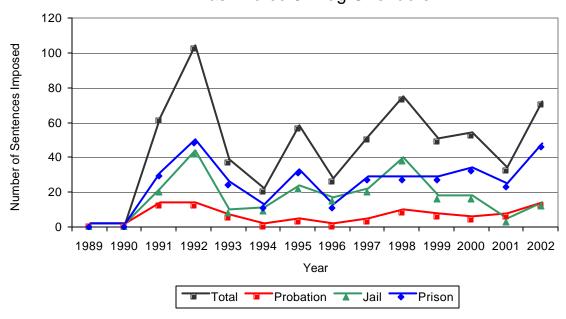


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

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).

Sentences Imposed on Convicted
Task Force 6 Drug Offenders

Figure 20

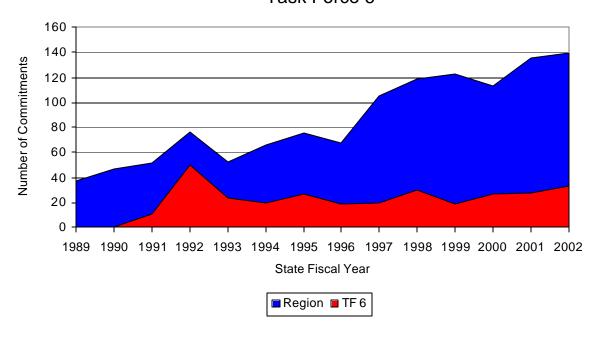


Source: Task Force 6 data

Between state fiscal years 1989 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 37 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 one-quarter of all drug-law violators sentenced to prison from the three-county region where Task Force 6 operates.

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

Figure 21

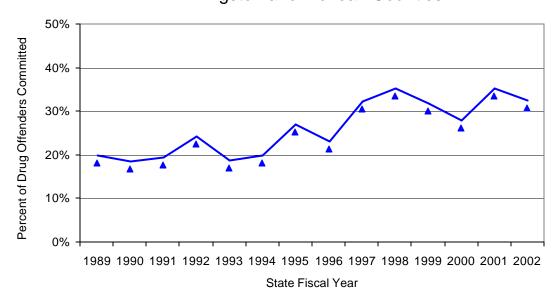


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections and Task Force 6 data

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).

Figure 22

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

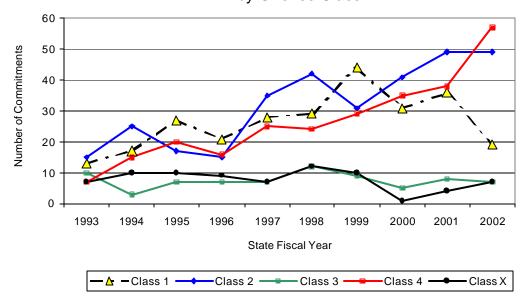


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Penalties for drug offenses were also examined between SFYs1993 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.

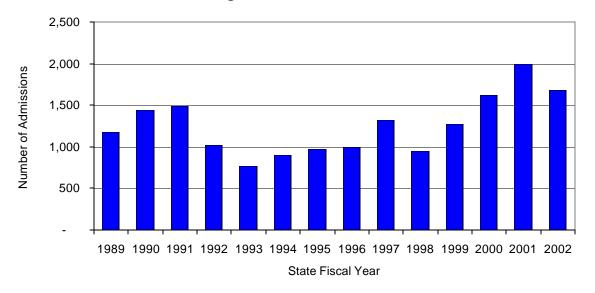
Based on data collected from the 2000 Illinois Adult Probation Outcome Study, just over 10 percent (10.2 percent) of all adults discharged from probation in DeWitt, McLean, and Livingston counties combined during the study period (November 2000) were convicted of drug-law violations. Of these drug-law violators discharged from probation in the region, more than three-quarters (83.3 percent) had been convicted of a felony drug offense. In addition, more than three-quarters (87.5 percent) of these drug-law violators were ordered to participate in some form of treatment.

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

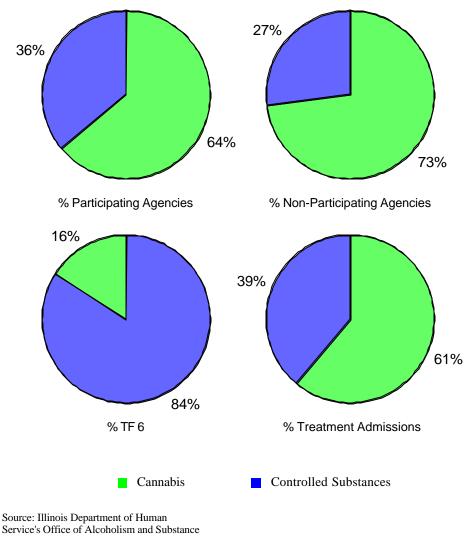


Source: Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse While drug treatment admissions can be considered a measure of the demand placed on a specific component of the human services system within Illinois, the extent and nature of drug treatment admissions could also 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



Service's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and Task Force 6 data

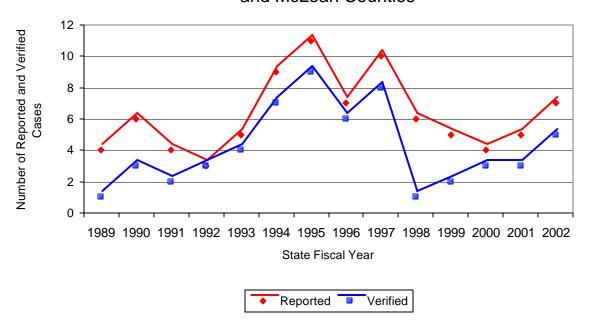
VIII. Trends in Substance-Exposed Births

Illinois continues to experience the effects of prenatal substance abuse. In Illinois, if a baby is born and thought to have been exposed to illegal substances or alcohol, either through observation by physicians or toxicology tests, the case is reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. These cases are then investigated by DCFS to verify the child's prenatal exposure to either alcohol or illegal substances. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 2002, 96 of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-exposed birth.

Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1995, the number of substance-exposed birth 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 births 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 births in the region covered by Task Force 6 has increased annually (Figure 26).

Figure 26

Cases of Substance-Exposed Births 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.

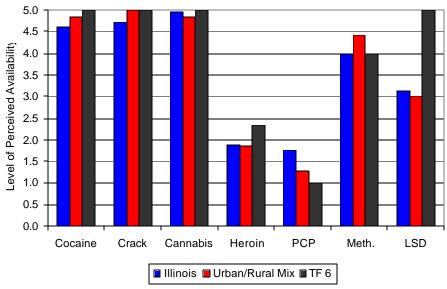
The Authority periodically conducts a survey of each MEG and task force in Illinois (the most recent being conducted in 2000) to gauge the perceived availability of drugs in the areas they cover. Questions were asked concerning the availability of specific drugs, and results were analyzed by region of the state. MEGs and task forces are classified as being either urban, rural, or mixed urban/rural based upon the classification of the county(s) that each unit covers, and, for purposes of this report, are compared to the average of similar units.

According to 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 200 surveys and was reported as more readily available across all regions examined (Figure 27).

Figure 27

Availability of Drugs in Illinois, 2000

1=Not Available 5=Easily Available

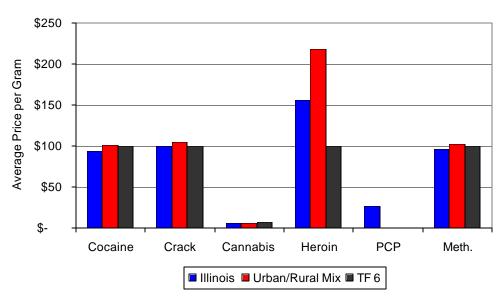


Source: Authority Survey of Illinois MEGs and task forces

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.

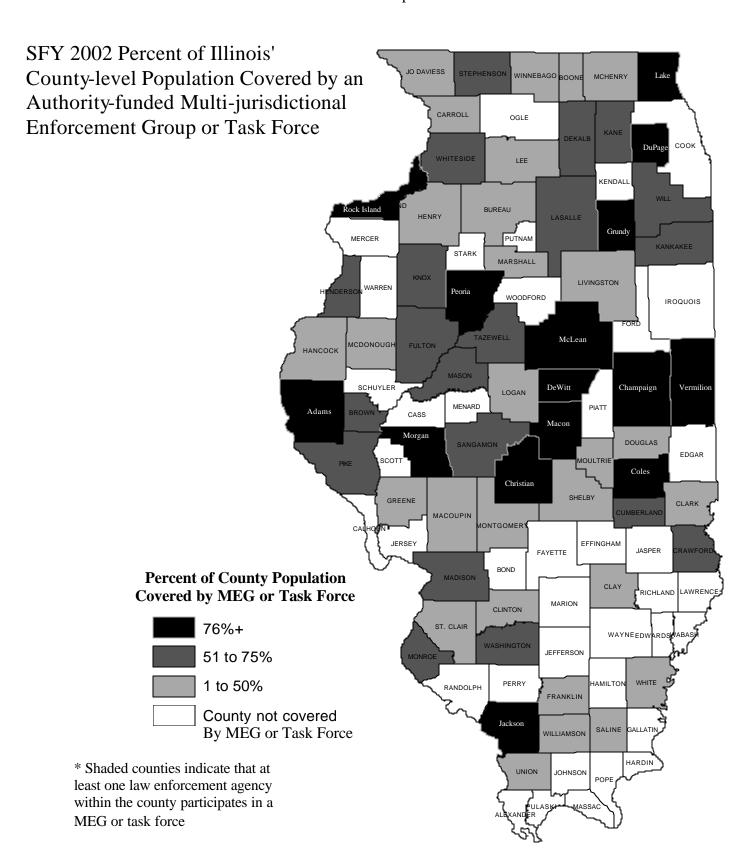
Based on a statewide survey of MEG and task force units, the average price of cannabis, cocaine, crack, and methamphetamine appear to be relatively stable across all regions surveyed in 2000. The average price has decreased across all drug types since 1998 (with the exception of methamphetamine). The 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.

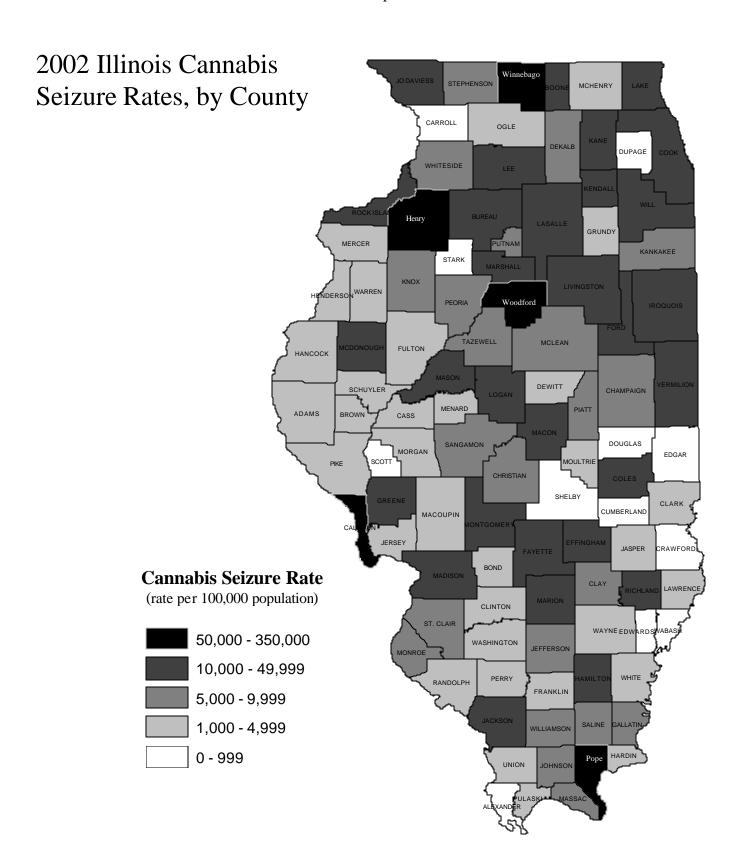
Figure 28
Price Per Gram in Illinois, 2000

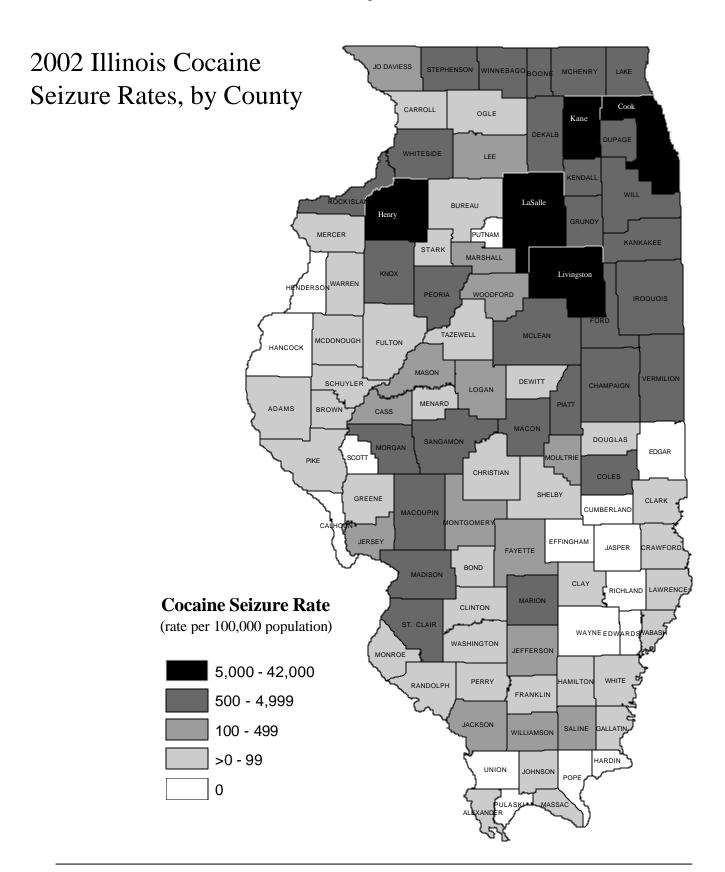


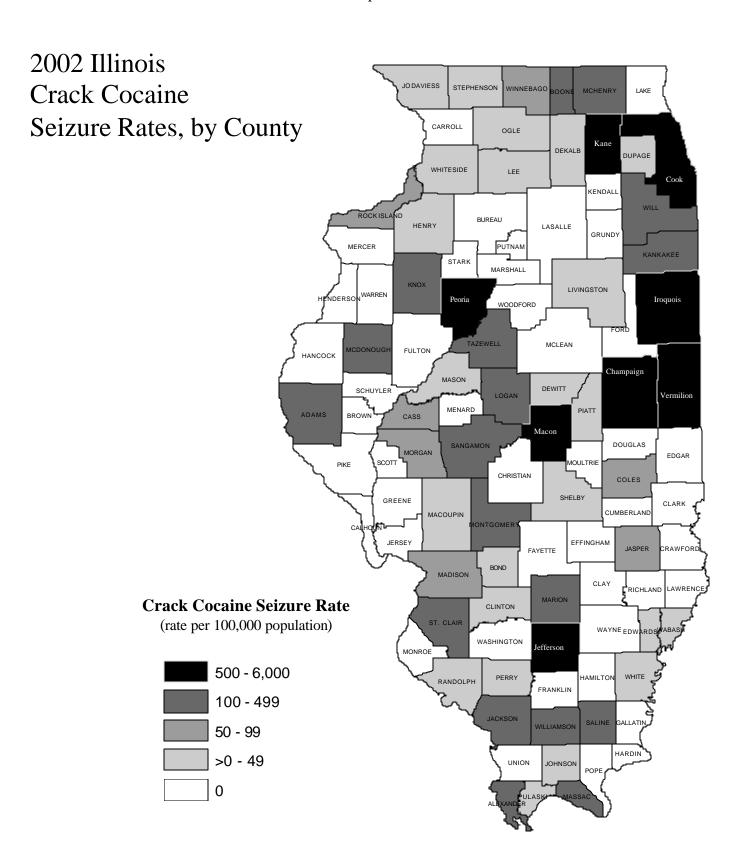
Source: Authority Survey of Illinois MEGs and task forces

X. Appendices

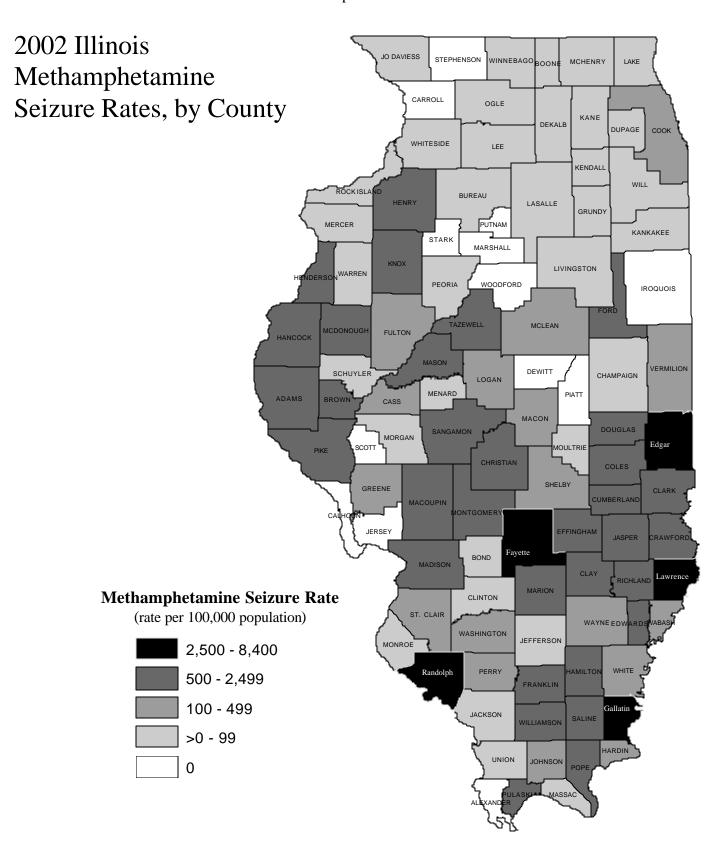


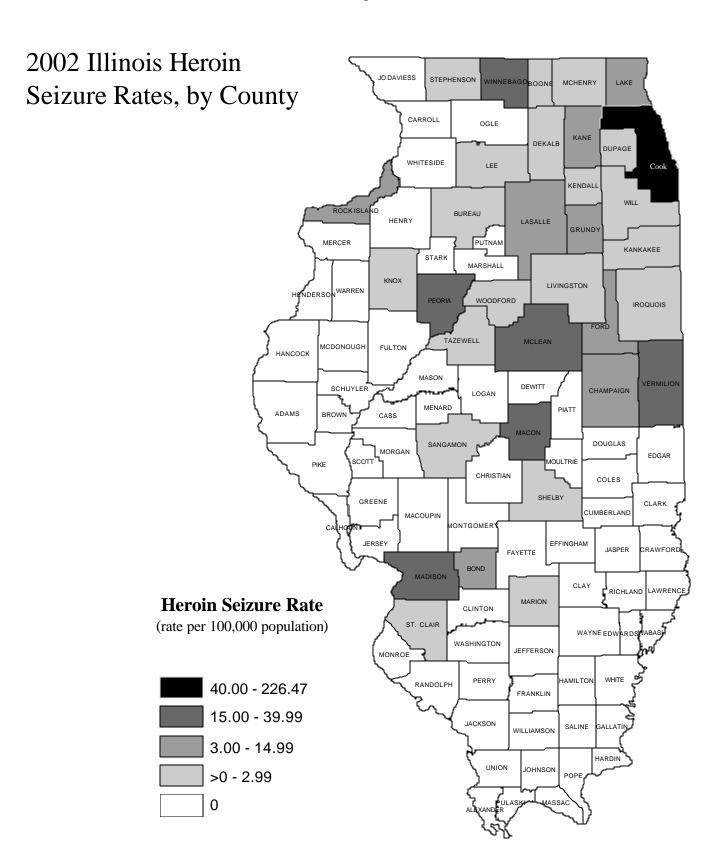






Map 5





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