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ILLINOIS CRIME AND  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
TRENDS: 2000-2010

# **ILLINOIS CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRENDS: 2000-2010**

The following pages present brief snapshots of crime and criminal justice trends, at state and regional levels. These are intended to present overviews drawn from available data, primarily for the years 2000 through 2010.

## **Illinois population and demographic shifts**

Crime trends are generally affected by population trends. Between 2000 and 2010, the most recent years for which criminal justice data are available, the population of Illinois increased 3.3 percent. The self-identified Hispanic or Latino population grew to surpass the black or African American population for the first time in state history. Taken together, there were nearly 9.1 million white residents, 1.9 million black residents, and 2 million Hispanic residents (of any race) in Illinois in 2010.

## **Geographic regional breakdowns for trend analysis**

In 2010, 31 Illinois counties were categorized as urban compared to 22 counties in 1997. These county categories are based on county population, which have shifted considerably over time in the state. In order to standardize counties over time for trend analysis purposes, state geographically based regional breakdowns were used. These include: Cook County, the Northern region outside of Cook County, the Central region, and the Southern region. The maps in the Summary of Findings section illustrate the counties included in each region. These regions coincide with the geographic areas of the three divisions of the United States District Courts of Illinois. These divisions have been adopted here as a simple geographic partitioning scheme for the state.

## **Decline in statewide reported index violent and property offense rates**

Violent and property offense data from 2000 to 2009 are the most recent available through the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program. During this time period both reported violent and property offense rates per 100,000 persons have continually dropped. The statewide overall index offense rate declined 24 percent between 2000 and 2009. Violent offense rates for murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault/battery decreased 24 percent statewide during those years, and even more dramatically in Cook County (28 percent). The property offense rates for burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson, also declined by 24 percent.

## **Decline in statewide reported index violent and property arrest rates**

In keeping with the decline in crimes reported to police, arrest rates per 100,000 persons for both violent and property offenses have also declined since 2000, by an average of 17 percent across the state. Violent arrest rates declined in all regions of the state including the Central region, which observed the smallest decline of about 1 percent from 2000 to 2009.

### **Decline in statewide reported drug arrest rates**

Drug arrests rates per 100,000 persons for cannabis, controlled substances and drug paraphernalia/hypodermic syringes decreased 20 percent statewide between 2000 and 2009 (the most recent I-UCR data available). Drug arrest rates decreased 29 percent in Cook County and 11 percent in the Northern region outside of Cook. However, drug arrest rates increased nine percent in the Central region, and 19 percent in the Southern region.

In terms of drug type, the Southern region was the only of the four regions that observed dramatic increases across all types of drug arrest categories collected by the I-UCR program (cannabis, controlled substances, and drug paraphernalia/hypodermic syringes).

From 2001 to 2010, data from the Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and Drug Task Forces revealed a substantial drop (73 percent) in arrests for methamphetamine, but tremendous increases in arrests for heroin and prescription drugs in the areas in which they operate.

### **Increase in state prison population**

From SFY2000 to SFY2010, the number of felons sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) statewide decreased 12 percent, although the central and southern regions experienced increases of 30 percent. New admissions to prison increased by 15 percent, while the number of prison admissions for technical violations increased by 188 percent.

## **POPULATION**

### **State and regional demographics, 2000-2010**

#### Population estimates by region, 2010

- Illinois population was estimated at 12.9 million.
- Cook County population was estimated at 5.2 million.
- The Northern region (outside Cook County) population was estimated at 4.1 million.
- The Central region population was estimated at 2.3 million.
- The Southern region population was estimated at 1.3 million.

#### Population trends from 2000 to 2010

- Illinois population increased 3.3 percent.
- Population in Cook County decreased 3.4 percent.
- Population in the Northern region outside Cook County increased 14 percent.
- Population in the Central region increased 2 percent.
- Population in the Southern region increased 2 percent.

#### Racial demographics by region, 2010

- In Illinois, 2010 racial breakdowns include:
  - 71.5 percent white residents
  - 14.5 percent black residents
  - 15.8 percent self-reported Hispanic ethnicity (of any race).
- In Cook County, 2010 racial breakdowns include:
  - 57 percent white residents
  - 22 percent black residents
  - 21 percent self-reported Hispanic ethnicity (of any race).

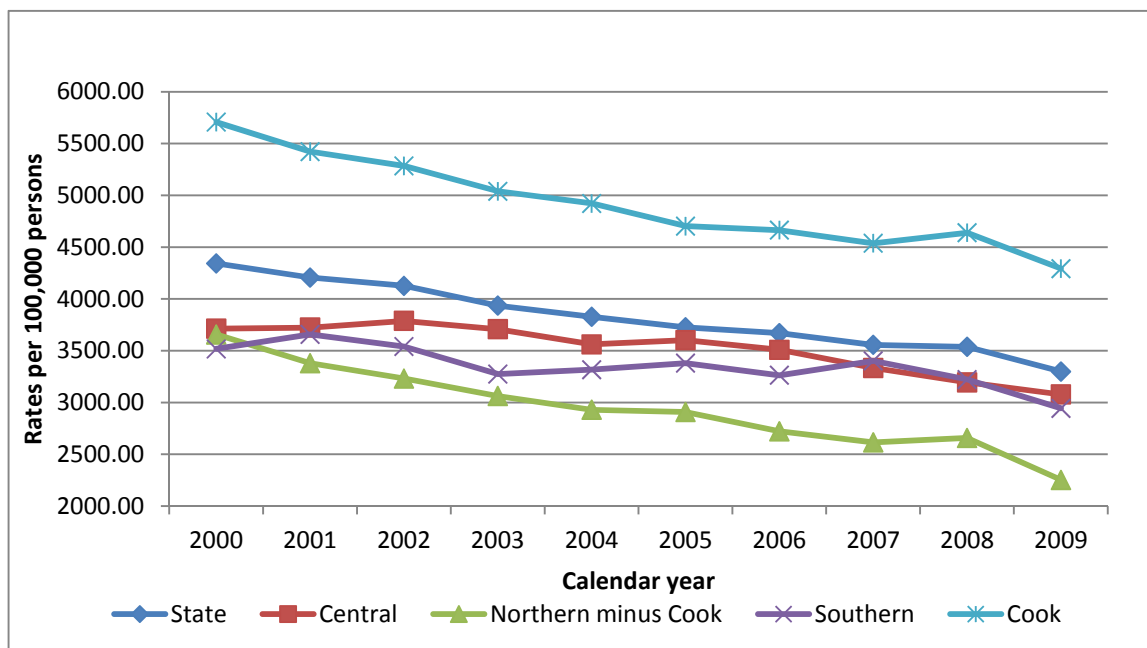
- In the Northern region outside Cook County, 2010 racial breakdowns include:
  - 79 percent white residents
  - 6 percent black residents
  - 15 percent self-reported Hispanic ethnicity (of any race).
- In the Central region, 2009 racial breakdowns include:
  - 87 percent white residents
  - 9 percent black residents
  - 4 percent self-reported Hispanic ethnicity (of any race).
- In the Southern region, 2009 racial breakdowns include:
  - 86 percent white residents
  - 11 percent black residents
  - 2 percent self-reported Hispanic ethnicity (of any race).

## OFFENSES

### Total (violent and property) index offenses reported, 2000-2009

- Statewide, nearly five million violent and property index offenses were reported to police between 2000 and 2009, half of which were reported in Cook County.
- Illinois experienced a continual downward trend in reported total (violent and property) index offense rates per 100,000 persons between 2000 and 2009.
- Between 2000 and 2009, **reported total index offense rates:**
  - Decreased 24 percent In Illinois
  - Decreased 25 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 38 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Decreased 17 percent in the Central region
  - Decreased 16 percent in the Southern region

**Figure 1**  
**Total (violent and property) index offense rates by Illinois region, 2000-2009**

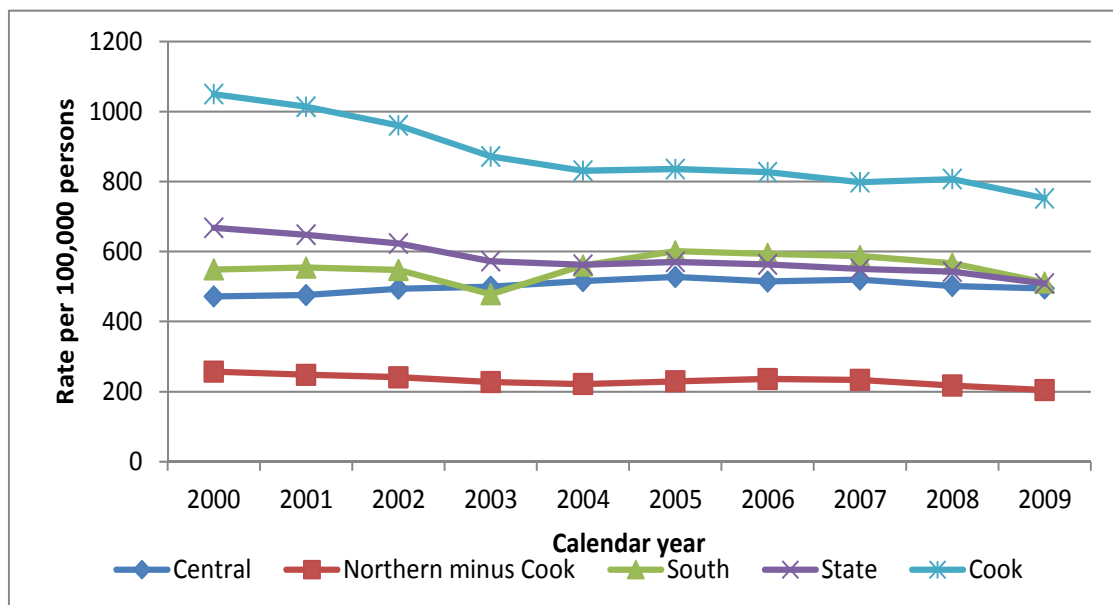


Source: Illinois State Police, I-UCR program

## Violent Index offenses reported, 2000-2009

- Violent index offenses include murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.
- Statewide, violent index offenses accounted for 15 percent of total reported index offenses from 2000 to 2009.
- Statewide between 2000 and 2009, aggravated assaults accounted for the majority of reported violent index offenses (58 percent), followed by robberies at 33 percent, rapes at 8 percent, and homicides at one percent.
- Between 2000 and 2009, **violent index offense rates**:
  - Decreased 24 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 28 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 21 percent in the Northern region (outside Cook County)
  - Increased 5 percent in the Central region
  - Decreased 7 percent in the Southern region

**Figure 2**  
**Reported violent offense rates by Illinois region, 2000-2009**

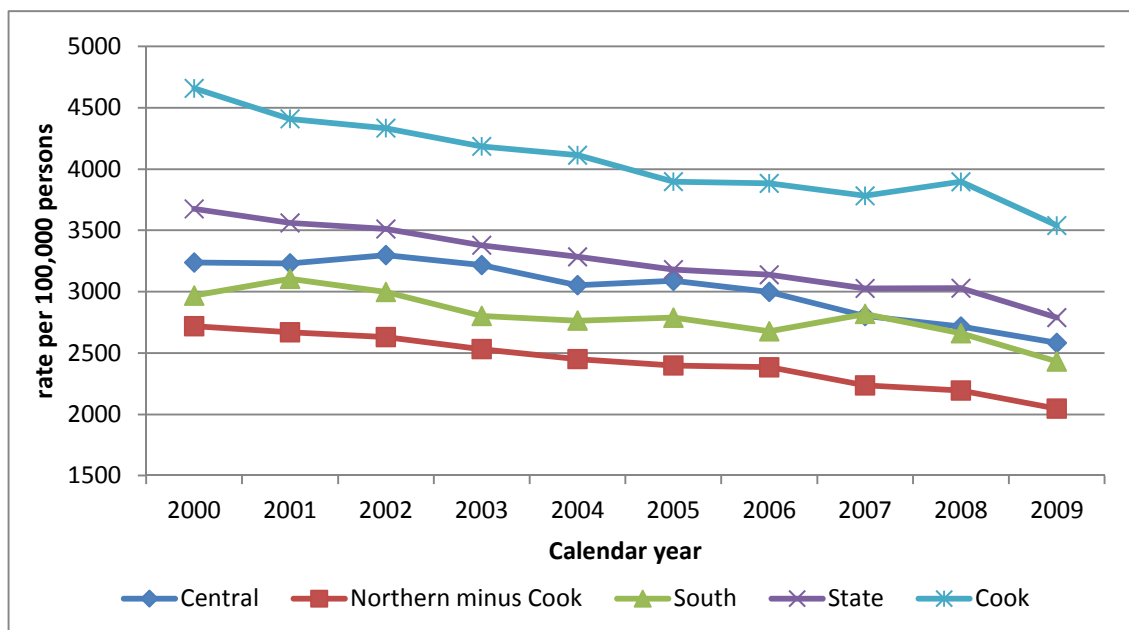


Source: Illinois State Police, I-UCR program

## Property index offenses reported, 2000-2009

- Property index offenses include burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.
- Statewide, property index offenses accounted for 85 percent of the total reported index offenses from 2000 to 2009.
- Statewide between 2000 and 2009, theft accounted for the majority of reported property index offenses (71 percent), followed by burglary (19 percent), motor vehicle theft (10 percent), and arson (less than one percent).
- Between 2000 and 2009, **property index offense rates**:
  - Decreased 24 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 24 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 25 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Decreased 20 percent in the Central region
  - Decreased 18 percent in the Southern region

**Figure 3**  
**Reported property offense rates by Illinois region from 2000-2009**



Source: Illinois State Police, I-UCR program

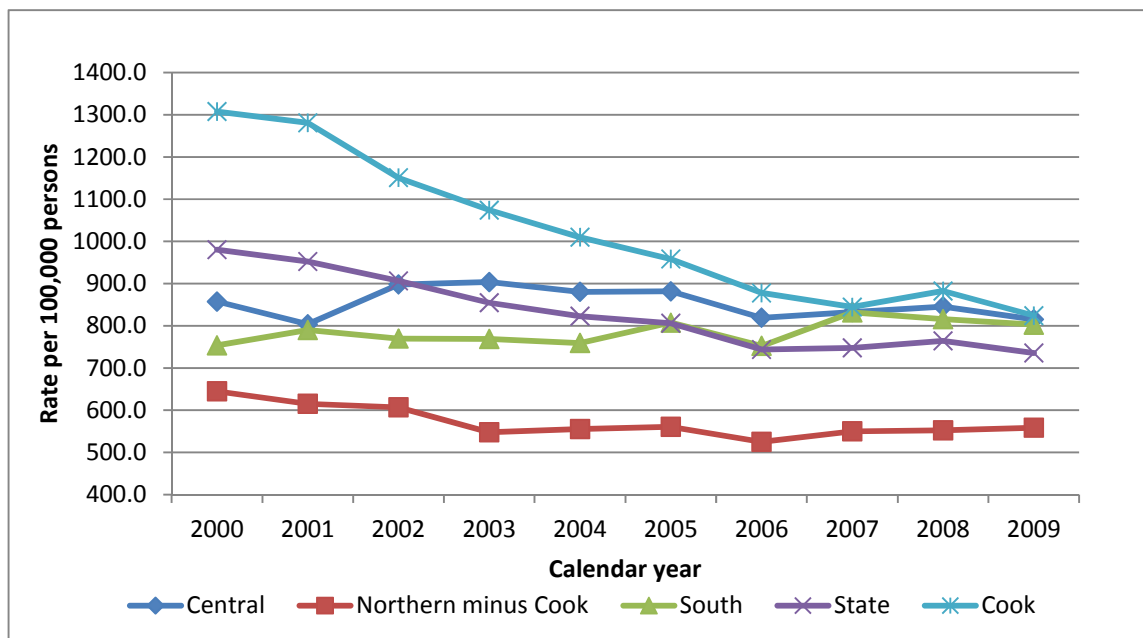


## ARRESTS

### Total (violent and property) index arrests reported, 2000-2009

- Statewide, slightly over 1 million violent and property index arrests were reported by law enforcement agencies between 2000 and 2009. Half of these were reported in Cook County.
- Except for the year 2000, Illinois experienced a continual downward trend in total index arrest rates (violent and property) between 2000 and 2009.
- Between 2000 and 2009, **total index arrest rates (both violent and property)**:
  - Decreased 25 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 37 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 13 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Decreased 5 percent in the Central region
  - Decreased 7 percent in the Southern region

**Figure 4**  
**Total (violent and property) index arrest rates by Illinois region, 1999-2008**

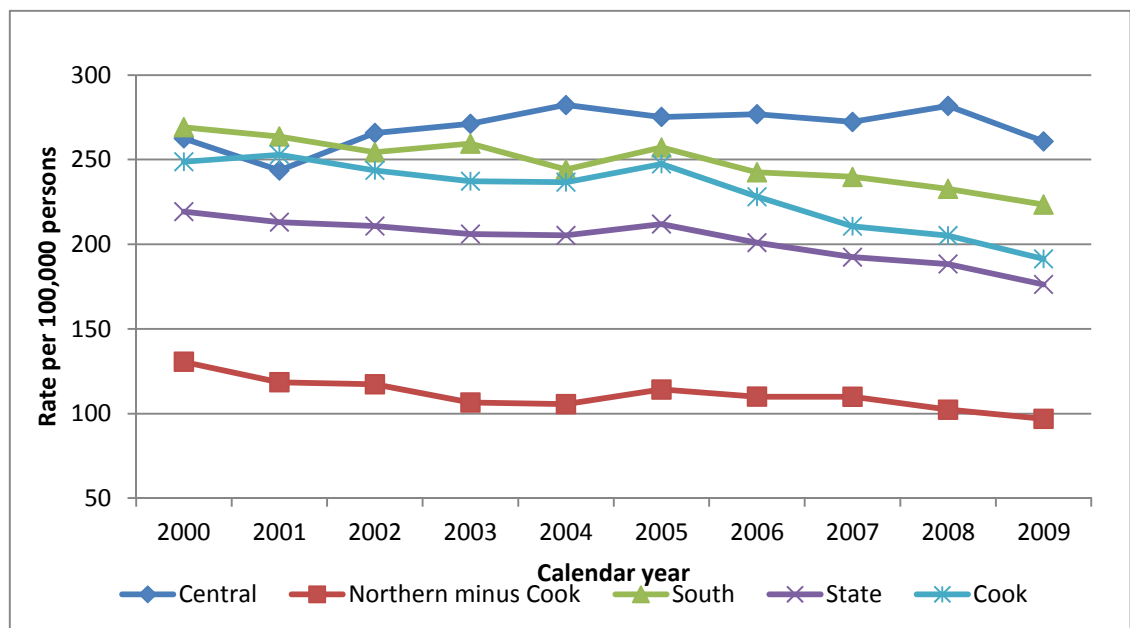


Source: Illinois State Police, I-UCR program

## Violent index arrests reported, 2000-2009

- Statewide, violent index arrests accounted for 24 percent of the total index arrests from 2000 to 2009.
- Statewide between 2000 and 2009, aggravated assaults accounted for the majority of reported violent index arrests (72 percent), followed by robbery (19 percent), rape (6 percent), and homicide (3 percent).
- Between 2000 and 2009, **violent index arrest rates**:
  - Decreased 20 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 23 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 26 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Decreased 0.7 percent in the Central region
  - Decreased 17 percent in the Southern region

**Figure 5**  
**Violent index arrest rates by Illinois region, 1999-2008**

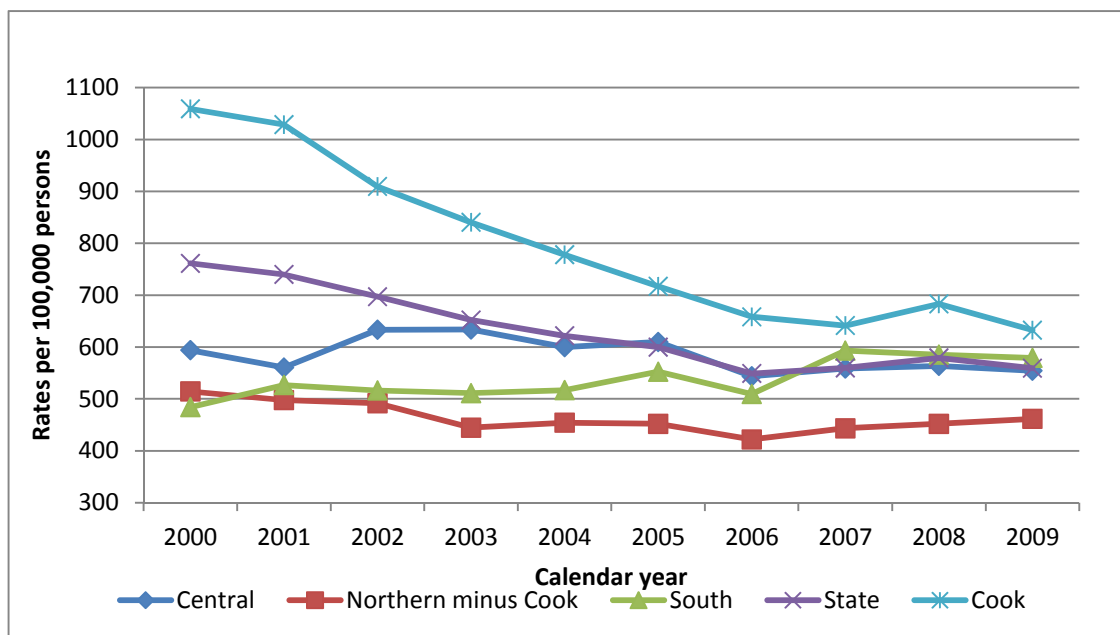


Source: Illinois State Police, I-UCR program

## Property index arrests reported, 2000-2009

- Statewide, property index arrests accounted for 76 percent of the total index arrests from 2000 to 2009
- Statewide between 2000 and 2009, theft accounted for the majority of reported property index arrests (71 percent), followed by burglary (19 percent), motor vehicle theft (10 percent), and arson (less than one percent).
- Between 2000 and 2009, **property index arrest rates**:
  - Decreased 27 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 40 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 10 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Decreased 7 percent in the Central region
  - Increased 20 percent in the Southern region

**Figure 6**  
**Property index arrest rates by Illinois region from 1999-2008**



Source: Illinois State Police, I-UCR program

### **Drug index arrests reported, 2000-2009**

- Nearly 1.1 million arrests for total index drug crimes (cannabis, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, and hypodermic syringes/needles) were reported by law enforcement agencies statewide between 2000 and 2009. This amount reflected a 37 percent increase from the number of arrests made during the previous 10 year span, 1988 through 1998.
- Between 2000 and 2009, **total index drug arrest rates by drug type included:**
  - 45 percent for cannabis
  - 41 percent for controlled substances
  - 14 percent for drug paraphernalia
  - Less than 1 percent for hypodermic syringes and needles
- Between 2000 and 2009, **total index drug arrest rates:**
  - Decreased 20 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 29 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 11 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Increased 9 percent in the Central region
  - Increased 19 percent in the Southern region

### **Trends in cannabis arrest rates, 2000-2009**

- Increased 11 percent in Illinois
- Increased 18 percent in Cook County
- Decreased 7 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
- Increased 20 percent in the Central region
- Increased 22 percent in the Southern region

### **Trends in controlled substances arrest rates, 2000-2009**

- Decreased 48 percent in Illinois
- Decreased 56 percent in Cook County
- Decreased 18 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
- Increased 18 percent in the Central region
- Increased 22 percent in the Southern region

### **Trends in drug paraphernalia arrest rates, 2000-2009**

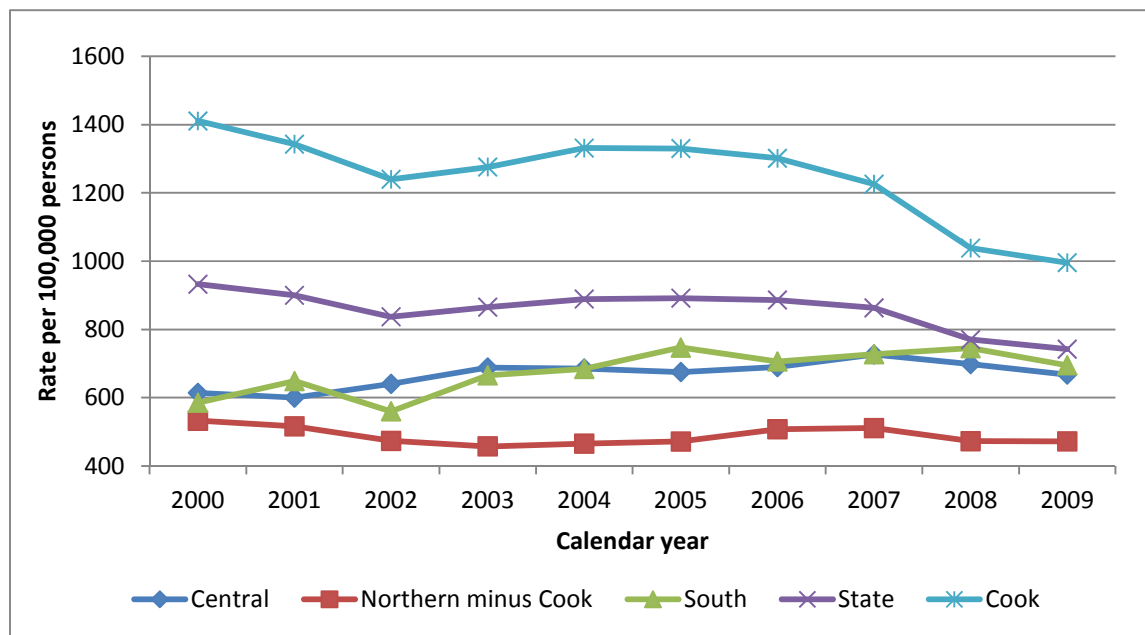
- Decreased 12 percent in Illinois
- Decreased 24 percent in Cook County
- Decreased 17 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
- Decreased 12 percent in the Central Illinois region

- Increased 10 percent in the Southern Illinois region

**Trends in hypodermic syringes/needles arrest rates, 2000-2009**

- Decreased 40 percent in Illinois
- Decreased 84 percent in Cook County
- Increased 46 percent in the Northern region outside of Cook County
- Increased 6 percent in the Central Illinois region
- Increased 29 percent in the Southern Illinois region

**Figure 7**  
**Total drug arrest rates by Illinois region from 1999-2008**

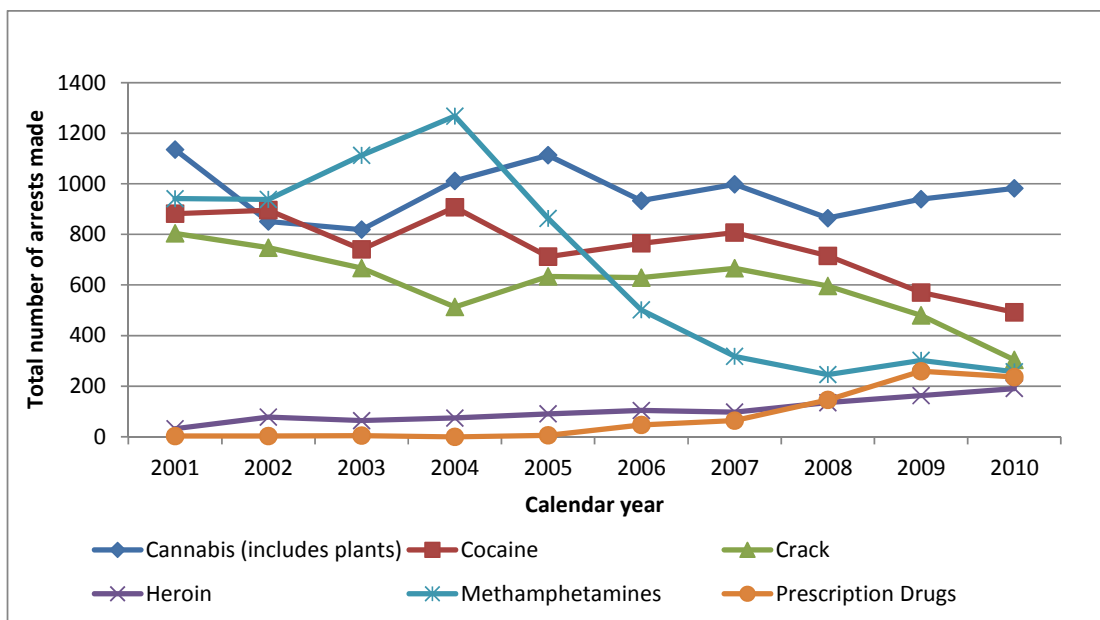


Source: Illinois State Police, I-UCR program

## Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) and Drug Task Force drug arrests, 2010

- During 2010, drug arrests made by MEGs and Drug Task Forces in all regions of operation included:
  - 40 percent for cannabis
  - 32 percent for cocaine and crack
  - 10 percent for methamphetamines
  - 10 percent for prescription drugs
  - 8 percent for heroin
- Between 2001 and 2010, MEGs and task force drug arrests:
  - Decreased 13 percent for cannabis
  - Decreased 44 percent for cocaine
  - Decreased 62 percent for crack
  - Increased nearly 6 times since 2001 for heroin (32 to 191 percent)
  - Decreased 73 percent for methamphetamines
  - Increased nearly 79 times for prescription drugs (from 3 to 236 percent)

**Figure 8**  
**MEG and Drug Task Force drug arrests by drug type, 2001-2010**



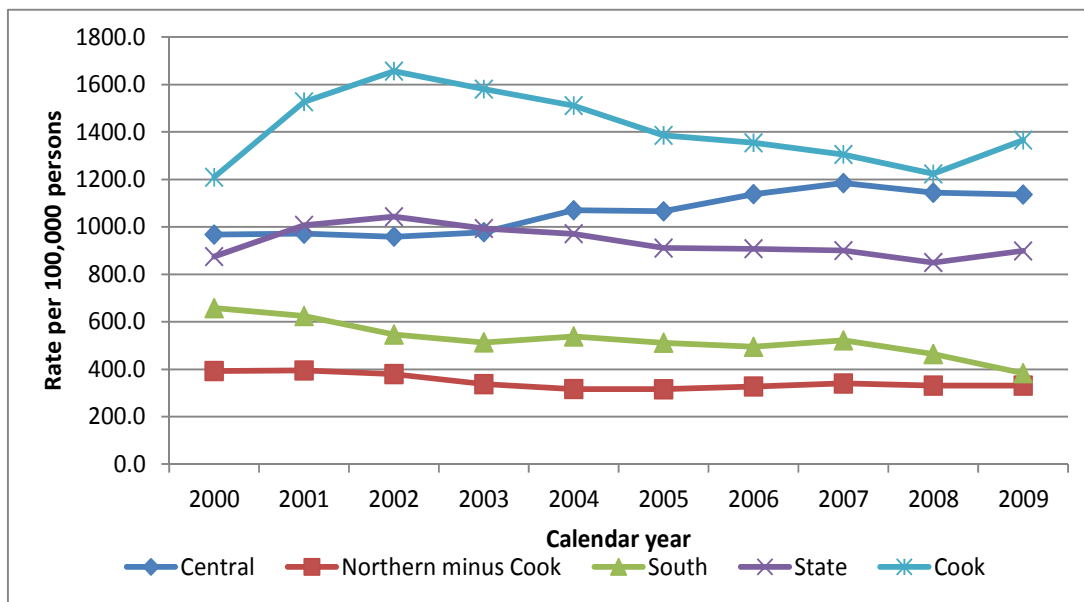
Source: Data reports submitted to ICJIA

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### Domestic-related offenses reported to I-UCR, 2000-2009

- The I-UCR program has collected additional crime data on domestic violence related offenses since 1996. Domestic-related crimes for this purpose are defined as crimes committed by family or household members, including spouses, former spouses, parents, children, stepchildren and other persons related by blood or marriage, persons who share (d) a common dwelling, and persons having a child in common.
- Between 2000 and 2009, **domestic violence offense rates:**
  - Increased 3 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 13 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 16 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Increased 17 percent in the Central region
  - Decreased 42 percent in the Southern Illinois region

**Figure 9**  
**Reported domestic offense rates in Illinois, 1999-2009**



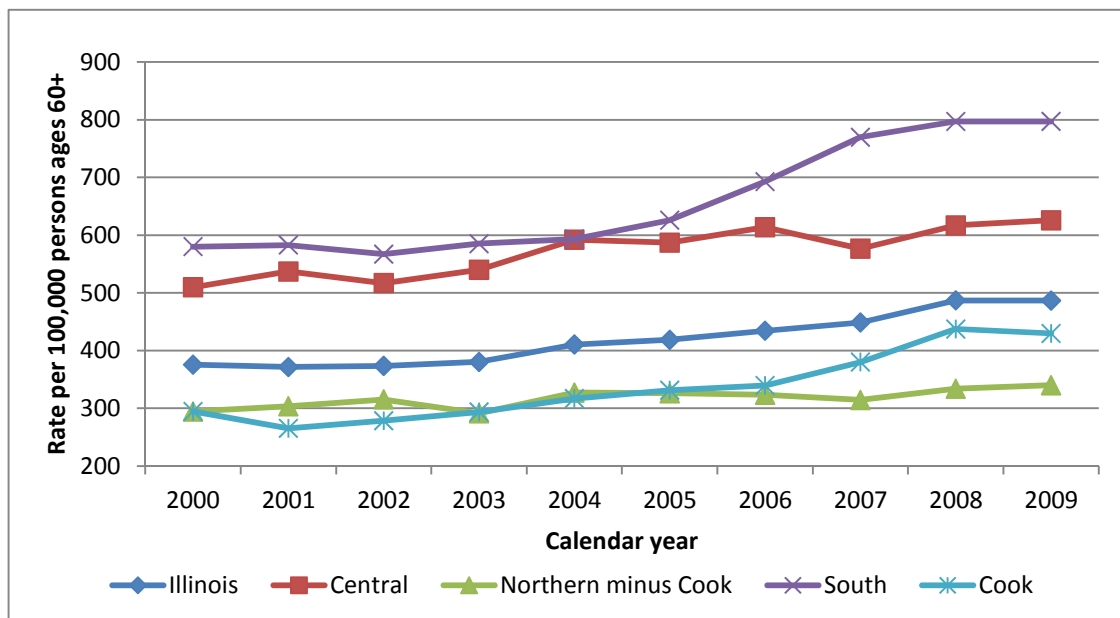
Source: Illinois State Police

## ELDER ABUSE

### Offenses reported to the Illinois Department on Aging, 2000-2009

- The Illinois Department on Aging administers the statewide Elder Abuse and Neglect reporting program. Elder abuse offenses include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, confinement, passive neglect, willful deprivation and financial exploitation of persons ages 60 and older, by family members, caregivers, acquaintances and strangers. In most cases, elder abuse victims are subjected to more than one type of offense.
- Between 2000 and 2009, **elder abuse offense rates** per 100,000 persons ages 60 and older:
  - Increased 30 percent in Illinois
  - Increased 46 percent in Cook County
  - Increased 15 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Increased 23 percent in the central region
  - Increased 37 percent in the southern region

**Figure 10**  
**Reported elder abuse offense rates in Illinois, per 100,000 persons**  
**ages 60 and older, 2000-2009**



Source: Illinois Department of Aging

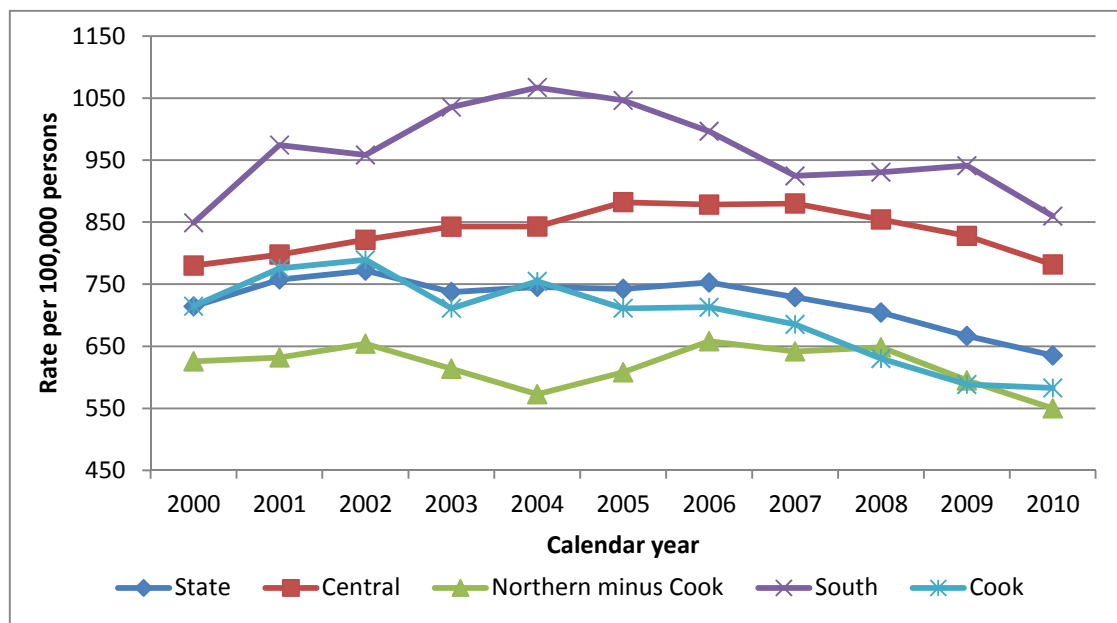


## COURTS

### Felony court filings, 2000-2010

- Between 2000 and 2010, **felony court filing rates** per 100,000 persons:
  - Decreased 11 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 18 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 12 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Decreased 0.2 percent in the Central region
  - Increased 1 percent in the Southern region

**Figure 11**  
**Felony court filing rates by Illinois region, 2000-2010**

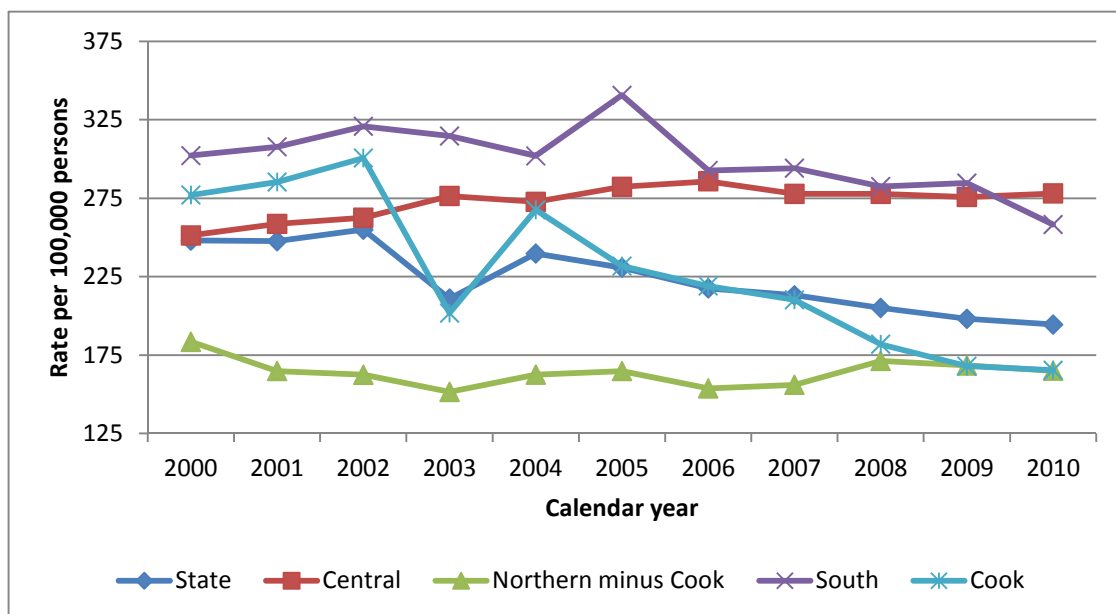


Source: Administrative of the Illinois Courts

## Felony sentences to county probation, 2000-2010

- Between 2000 and 2010, the number of felony offenders sentenced to probation in Illinois decreased 19 percent, from 30,847 in 2000 to 24,937 in 2010.
- Between 2000 and 2010, **the rate of felony offenders sentenced to probation, per 100,000 persons:**
  - Decreased 22 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 40 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 10 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Increased 11 percent in the Central region
  - Decreased 15 percent in the Southern region

**Figure 12**  
**Felony sentences sent to probation by Illinois region, 2000-2010**

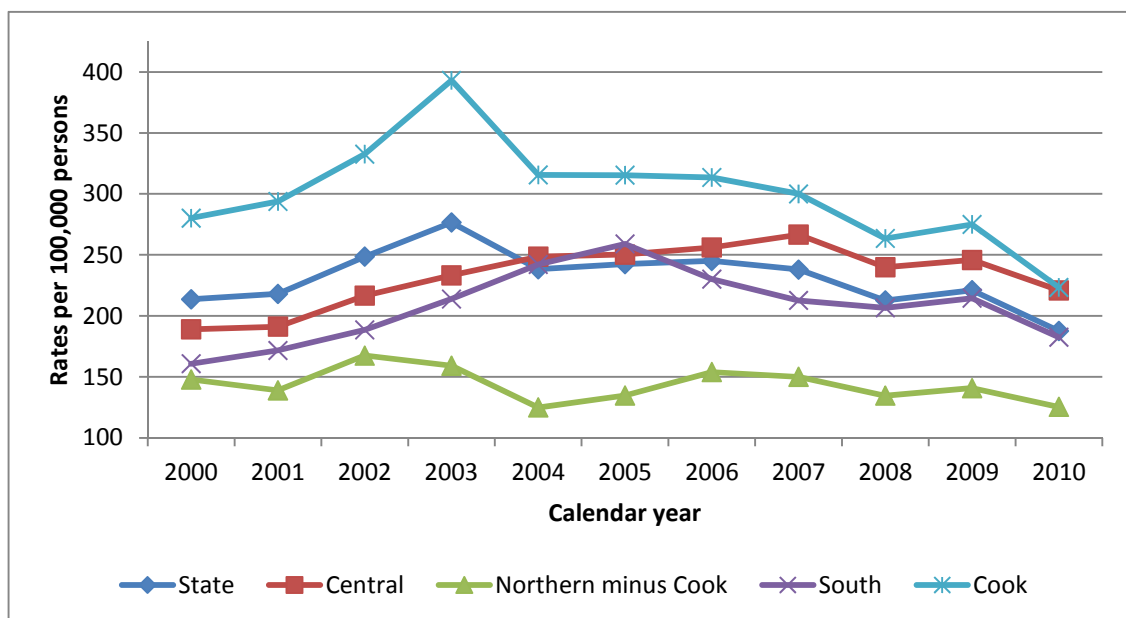


Source: Administrative office of the Illinois Courts

## Felony sentences to state prison (I-DOC), 2000-2010

- Between 2000 and 2010, the number of felony offenders sentenced to state prison in Illinois decreased 9 percent, from 26,570 in 2000 to 24,069 in 2010.
- Between 2000 and 2010, **the rate of felony offenders sentenced to state prison** (IDOC), per 100,000 persons:
  - Decreased 12 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 20 percent in Cook County
  - Decreased 15 percent in the Northern region outside of Chicago
  - Increased 17 percent in the Central region
  - Increased 13 percent in the Southern region

**Figure 13**  
**Felony sentences to state prison (IDOC) by Illinois region, 2000-2010**



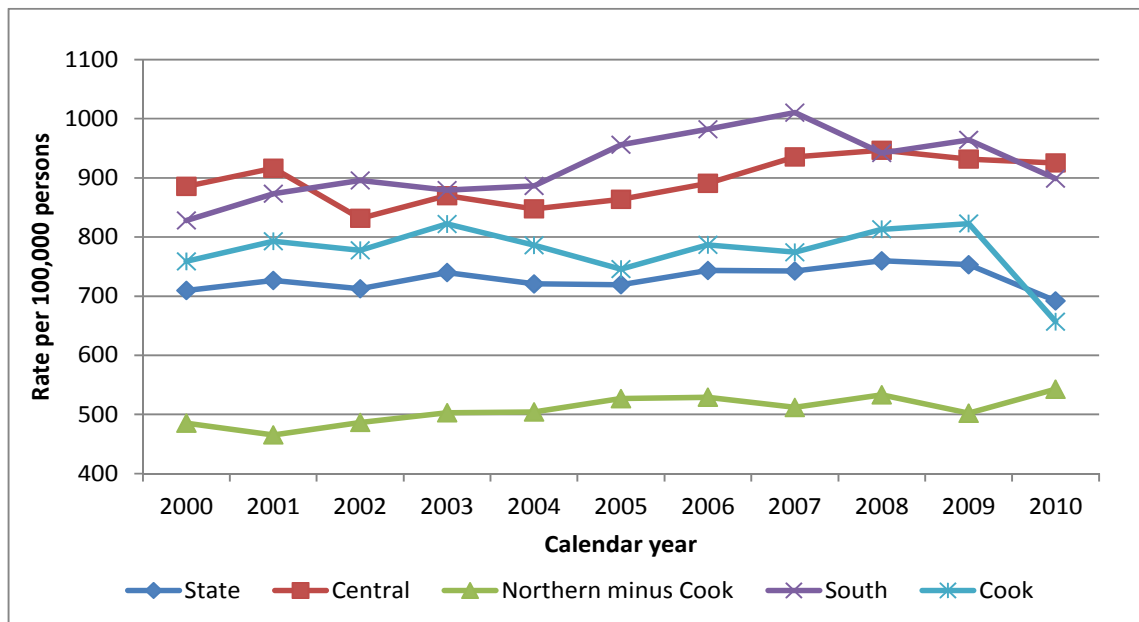
Source: Administrative of the Illinois Courts

## PROBATION

### Total active adult probation cases, 2000-2010

- Between 2000 and 2010, **the number of active adult probation cases:**
  - Increased less than 1 percent in Illinois, from 88,276 in 2000 to 88,793 in 2010
- Decreased 16 percent in Cook County
- Increased 28 percent in the northern Illinois region outside Cook County
- Increased 7 percent in the central Illinois region
- Increased 11 percent in the southern Illinois region

**Figure 14**  
**Total active adult probation cases in Illinois by region, 2000-2010**



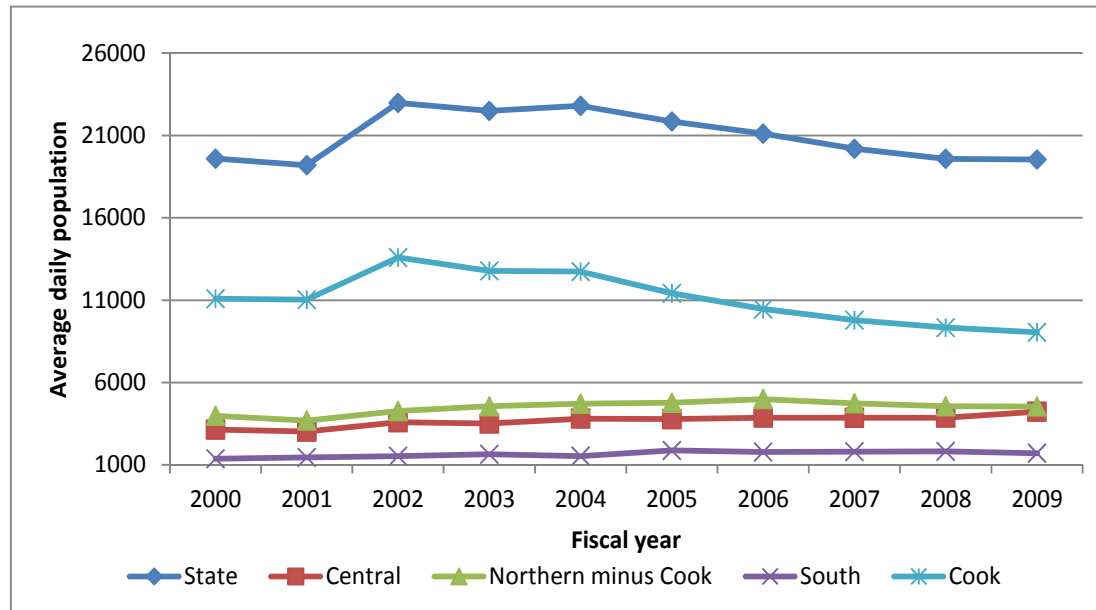
Source: Administrative office of the Illinois Courts, Probation Division

## COUNTY JAILS

### Jail populations, 2000-2009

- The Jail and Detention Standards Unit of the Illinois Department of Corrections collects information from the county jails regarding jail capacity, average daily population, and total yearly bookings, among other data. Not all 102 counties in Illinois operate jails. Nine counties in the Southern region have contractual arrangements to house inmates in nearby counties, and the Tri-County Jail serves in the Southern region serves three other counties.
- Between 2000 and 2009, **average daily jail population**:
  - Decreased less than 1 percent in Illinois
  - Decreased 18 percent in Cook County
  - Increased 14 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County
  - Increased 35 percent in the Central region
  - Increased 24 percent in the Southern region

**Figure 15**  
**Average daily population in Illinois county jails, 2000-2009**



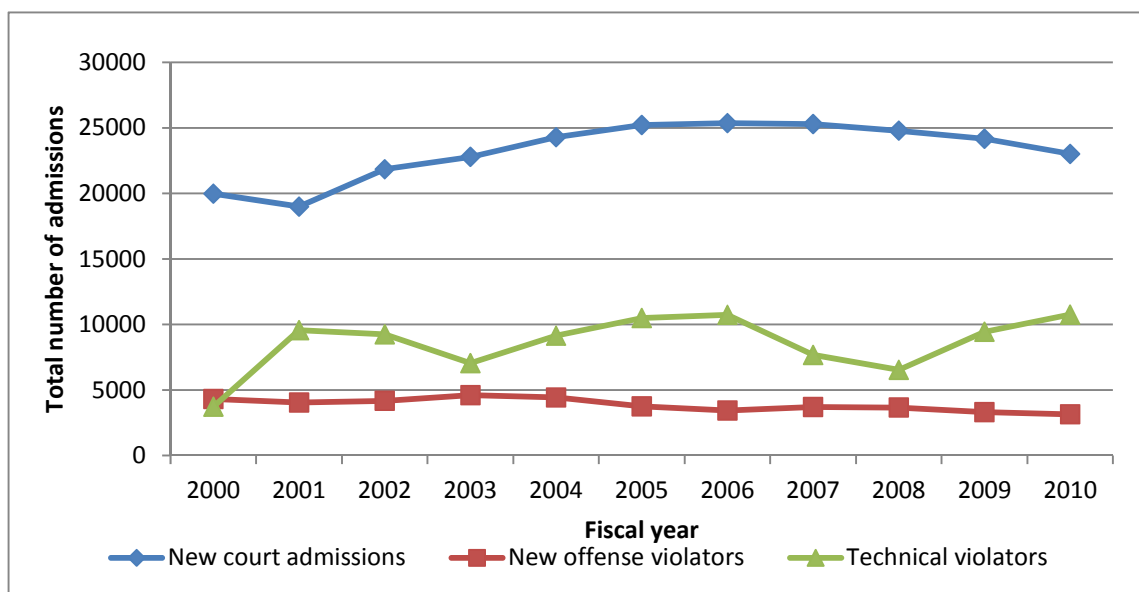
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections, Jail and Detention Standards Unit

## STATE CORRECTIONS

### Prison admissions, SFY<sup>1</sup> 2000-2010

- Between SFY 2000 and 2009, prison admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) increased 32 percent, from 28,014 in SFY 2000 to 36,909 in SFY 2010. Drug offenses were the most common offense for which convicted felons were admitted, accounting for 42 percent of all new admissions direct from court during this time span.
- Between 2000 and 2010:
  - New court admissions increased 15 percent
  - New offense violation admissions decreased 27 percent
  - Admissions of technical violators increased 188 percent

**Figure 16**  
**IDOC admissions by type, SFY 2000-2010**



Source: ICJIA interpretation of Illinois Department of Corrections, Research and Planning Division data

<sup>1</sup> State Fiscal Year, July1 through June 30.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRENDS – SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### COOK COUNTY



In 2010:

- Cook County's population was estimated to be 5.2 million.
- Cook County's population decreased (3.4 percent) from 2000 to 2010.

Between 2000 and 2009:

- Reported total index offense rates (both violent and property) decreased 25 percent.
- Violent index offense rates decreased 28 percent, while property index offense rates decreased 24 percent.
- Total index arrest rates (both violent and property) decreased 37 percent.
- Violent index arrest rates decreased 23 percent, while property index arrest rates decreased 40 percent.
- Index drug arrest rates decreased 29 percent.
- Cannabis arrest rates increased 18 percent.
- Controlled substance arrest rates decreased 56 percent.
- Drug paraphernalia arrest rates decreased 24 percent.
- Hypodermic syringes/needles arrest rates decreased 84 percent.
- Domestic violence offense rates decreased 13 percent.
- Elder abuse offense rates increased 46 percent (between 2000 and 2009).

Between 2000 and 2010:

- Felony court filing rates decreased 18 percent.
- Felony offenders sentenced to county probation rates decreased 40 percent.
- Felony offenders sentenced to the state prison rates decreased 20 percent.
- Active adult probation caseloads decreased 16 percent.
- Average daily jail population decreased 18 percent (between 2000 and 2009).



## NORTHERN REGION OUTSIDE COOK COUNTY



In 2010:

- Northern Illinois region outside Cook County's population was estimated to be 4.1 million.
- Northern region outside Cook County's population increased 14 percent between 2000 and 2010.

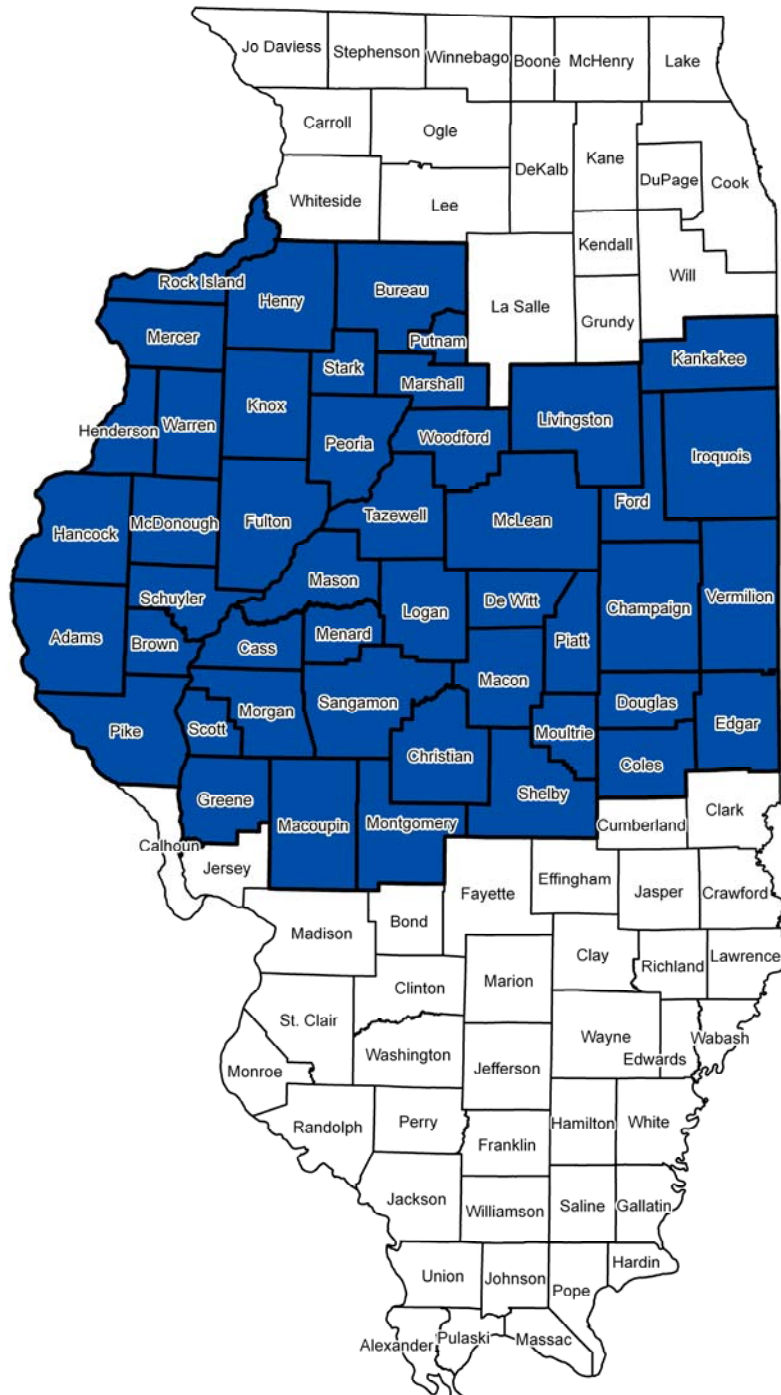
Between 2000 and 2009:

- Reported total index offense rates (both violent and property) decreased 38 percent.
- Violent index offense rates decreased 21 percent, while property index offense rate decreased 25 percent.
- Total index arrest rates (both violent and property) decreased 13 percent.
- Violent index arrest rates decreased 26 percent, while property index arrest rates decreased 10 percent.
- Index drug arrest rates decreased 11 percent.
- Cannabis arrest rates increased less than 7 percent.
- Controlled substance arrest rates decreased 18 percent.
- Drug paraphernalia arrest rates decreased 17 percent.
- Hypodermic syringes/needles arrest rates increased 46 percent.
- Domestic violence offense rates decreased 16 percent.
- Elder abuse offense rates increased 15 percent (between 2000 and 2009).

Between 2000 and 2010:

- Felony court filing rates decreased 12 percent.
- Felony offender rates sentenced to probation decreased 10 percent.
- Felony offender rates sentenced to the I-DOC decreased 15 percent.
- Active adult probation caseloads increased 28 percent
- Average daily jail population increased 14 percent (between 2000 and 2009).

## CENTRAL REGION



In 2010:

- Central Illinois region's population was estimated to be 2.3 million.
- Central region's population increased 2 percent from 2000 to 2010.

Between 2000 and 2009:

- Reported total index offense rates (both violent and property) decreased 17 percent.
- Violent index offense rates increased 5 percent, while property index offense rates decreased 20 percent.
- Total index arrest rates (both violent and property) decreased 5 percent.
- Violent index arrest rates decreased slightly less than 1 percent, while property index arrest rates decreased 7 percent.
- Index drug arrest rates increased 9 percent.
- Cannabis arrest rates increased 20 percent.
- Controlled substance arrest rates increased 18 percent.
- Drug paraphernalia arrest rates decreased 12 percent.
- Hypodermic syringes/needles arrest rates increased 6 percent.
- Domestic violence offense rates increased 17 percent.
- Elder abuse offense rates increased 23 percent (between 2000 and 2009).

Between 2000 and 2010:

- Felony court filing rates decreased slightly less than 1 percent.
- Felony offenders sentenced to probation rates increased 11 percent.
- Felony offenders sentenced to the prison rates increased 17 percent.
- Active adult probation caseloads increased 7 percent.
- Average daily jail population increased 35 percent (between 2000 and 2009).

## SOUTHERN REGION



In 2010:

- Southern Illinois region's population was estimated to be 1.3 million.
- Southern region's population increased slightly by 2 percent between 2000 and 2010.

Between 2000 and 2009:

- Reported total index offense rates (both violent and property) decreased 16 percent.
- Violent index offense rates decreased 7 percent, while property index offense rates decreased 18 percent.
- Total index arrest rates (both violent and property) increased 7 percent.
- Violent index arrest rates decreased 17 percent, while property index arrest rates increased 20 percent.
- Index drug arrest rates increased 19 percent.
- Cannabis arrest rates increased 22 percent.
- Controlled substance arrest rates increased 22 percent.
- Drug paraphernalia arrest rates increased 10 percent.
- Hypodermic syringes/needles arrest rates increased 29 percent.
- Domestic violence offense rates decreased 42 percent.
- Elder abuse offense rates increased 37 percent (between 2000 and 2009).

Between 2000 and 2010:

- Felony court filing rates increased 1 percent.
- Felony offenders sentenced to probation rates decreased 15 percent.
- Felony offenders sentenced to the prison rates increased 13 percent.
- Active adult probation caseloads increased 9 percent.
- Average daily jail population increased 24 percent (between 2000 and 2009).