

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Program

The Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) Program was developed in 1971 and implemented on January 1, 1972. The Illinois State Police was given the responsibility to act as the central repository for crime statistics. Reporting crime statistics is mandated by Chapter 20 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, 2630/8.

2630/8. Crime Statistics. The Department shall be a central repository and custodian of crime statistics for the State and it shall have all power incident thereto to carry out the purposes of this Act, including the power to demand and receive cooperation in the submission of crime statistics from all units of government.

Reporting agencies submit data on a monthly basis to the I-UCR Program. Participating jurisdictions include villages, municipalities, counties, colleges, universities, park districts, railroads, forest preserves, hospitals, and other miscellaneous agencies throughout Illinois.

Crime index offenses, crime index offense arrests, and drug crime arrests are required to be reported by local law enforcement agencies. In April 1996, the Illinois State Police began the collection of additional crime statistics mandated by state statutes. These include Domestic Violence, Attacks Against School Personnel, and Hate Crimes. Crimes Against Children are also reported voluntarily to the I-UCR Program.

Please note: The 2005 figures reported in this publication include data as of March 24, 2006. The 2004 figures may not reflect the figures published in *Crime in Illinois 2004* due to submission of late and/or adjusted data.

Crime Index data is also used by other agencies. For more information, browse the following websites:

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority - <http://www.icjia.org>
Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police - <http://www.ilchiefs.org>

Considerations for Interpretation

When comparing the crime statistics of one agency to those of another, many factors should be taken into consideration before conclusions are made. Some of the conditions affecting the type and volume of crime are:

- Population density and degree of urbanization;
- Variations in composition of the population, particularly youth concentration;
- Stability of population with respect to residents' mobility, commuting patterns, and transient factors;
- Modes of transportation and highway system;
- Economic conditions, including median income, poverty level, and job availability;
- Cultural factors and educational, recreational, and religious characteristics;
- Family conditions with respect to divorce and family cohesiveness;
- Climate;
- Effective strength of law enforcement agencies;
- Administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement;
- Policies of other components of the criminal justice system (i.e., prosecutorial, judicial, correctional, and probational);
- Citizens' attitudes toward crime; and,
- Crime reporting practices of citizens.¹

Guard against direct agency-to-agency comparisons when analyzing I-UCR statistics. Such comparisons could be misleading unless demographic differences between jurisdictions are taken into account. Every community has unique social, ethnic, and economic factors which may affect its crime statistics. These dissimilarities may bias the results of any comparative analysis between agencies. A jurisdiction's crime situation is complex and cannot always be treated superficially, as it might be in direct agency-to-agency comparisons. Keep in mind that some agencies' jurisdictions, such as railroads, are comprised of non-geographical areas.

In addition, uniform crime reporting statistics reflect "offenses known to police." In other words, these crime counts and rates only reflect information on crimes reported to police, not necessarily all crimes that occurred. Propensity to report a crime varies by type of crime and the individual characteristics of the victim. For more information, see the *National Crime Victimization Survey*, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

In general, the decision to use any indicator for analysis purposes must be made with care. The I-UCR indicators discussed within this publication have utility for law enforcement administrators; however, they must be used with caution. No single indicator is sufficient for thorough crime analysis. Instead, decisions that law enforcement administrators are called upon to make require a multifaceted analytical approach.

¹ Crime in the United States - 2004, United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, p.iv.

I-UCR Reporting Agencies

In 2005, there were 1,119 law enforcement agencies in Illinois; eighty-six percent of these agencies (966) reported crime statistics directly to the Illinois State Police. The remaining agencies reported their crime statistics through an intermediary agency (sheriff's office, police department, etc.).

| <i>Agency Type</i> | <i>Total Agencies</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Direct Reporting Agencies | |
| Police Departments | 703 |
| Sheriffs' Offices | 102 |
| Colleges & Universities | 35 |
| Secretary of State | 1 |
| Illinois State Police* | 88 |
| Hospitals | 2 |
| Railroads | 13 |
| Park Districts | 9 |
| Airports | 2 |
| Forest Preserves | 5 |
| Arson/Fire Departments | 1 |
| Other Agencies | 5 |
| Indirect Reporting Agencies | |
| 153 | |
| TOTAL | 1,119 |

*Includes Patrol, Investigative Units, Task Forces, and Metropolitan Enforcement Groups.

The Crime Index / Crime Rate

Most of the offense and arrest statistics in this publication focus primarily on what is known as the Crime Index. In aggregate, the eight crime categories that make up this index provide an indication of the extent serious crime occurs in the jurisdiction, region, or state. Four of the crime index categories collected by the I-UCR Program include violent crimes - murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault/battery (including attempted murder and ritual mutilation); and four include property crimes - burglary, larceny/theft (including burglary from a motor vehicle), motor vehicle theft, and arson.

The I-UCR Program's **crime index** translates into the FBI National Program's eight Crime Index offenses as:

Violent Crimes

Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter - The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.

Forcible Rape - The carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will - includes attempted rape. (Illinois reports criminal sexual assault offenses against males *and* females rather than rape offenses under this category.)

Robbery - The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence - includes attempted robbery.

Aggravated Assault - The intentional causing of serious bodily harm or the intentional attempt or threat of serious bodily injury or death - includes aggravated battery, attempted murder, and ritual mutilation.

Property Crimes

Burglary - The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft - includes attempted burglary.

Theft - The unlawful taking or stealing of property or articles without the use of force, violence, or fraud - includes burglary from a motor vehicle and attempts.

Motor Vehicle Theft - The unlawful taking or stealing of a motor vehicle - includes attempted motor vehicle theft.

Arson - The willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building or any building, motor vehicle, aircraft, or personal property of another.

The **crime rate** indicates the prevalence of crime occurring across a given population. It is generally defined as the total number of index crimes per 100,000 inhabitants and is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Crime Index Count} \times 100,000}{\text{Jurisdictional Population}} = \text{Crime Rate}$$

The jurisdictional population can be that of a city, town, village, state, or nation.

The **percent change** indicates the increase or decrease of the volume of data represented.

$$\frac{\text{Current Figure} - \text{Previous Figure}}{\text{Previous Figure}} \times 100 = \text{Percent Change}$$

Crime Index Offense Classifications

| | ILLINOIS CLASSIFICATIONS | FBI-UCR CLASSIFICATIONS |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| VIOLENT CRIMES | First Degree Murder (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/9-1) Second Degree Murder (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/9-2) | Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter |
| | Criminal Sexual Assault (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/12-13, 14) | Forcible Rape |
| | Robbery (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/18-1 thru 5) | Robbery |
| | Attempted Murder Aggravated Assault (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/12-2) Aggravated Battery (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/12-4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 & 4.6) Ritual Mutilation (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/12-32) | Aggravated Assault |
| PROPERTY CRIMES | Burglary (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/12-11, 19-1 & 3) | Burglary |
| | Theft (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/16-1 & 16A-3 & 16E-4 & 16-5) Burglary From A Motor Vehicle (Chapter 625 ILCS 5/4-102 & 103, 720-5/12-11.1) | Larceny/Theft |
| | Motor Vehicle Theft (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/16-1 & 625-5/4-103) | Motor Vehicle Theft |
| | Arson (Chapter 720 ILCS 5/20-1, 1.1 & 20-2) | Arson |

