



The Link Between Drug Use and Crime in Cook Co. and Illinois

A 1997 study by the Office of National Drug Control Policy concluded that there were over 330,000 hard core drug users in Cook County, nearly triple earlier estimates.¹

The drug/crime problem is first seen at arrest...

- Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for all drug offenses increased 26% in Cook County, from 53,803 to 67,988 arrests.²
- Between 1994 and 2003, the drug arrest rate increased 24% in Cook County, from 1,022 to 1,270 per 100,000 population. In 2003, Cook County's rate was more than double the rate in the rest of Illinois.³
- The drug arrest rate in the rest of Illinois (excluding Cook County) more than doubled between 1994 and 2003, from 264 to 561 per 100,000 population.⁴
- Between 1994 and 2003, drug arrests increased 22% in Chicago, compared to a 49% increase in suburban Cook County.⁵
- Approximately 74% of male and 77% of female arrestees in Chicago tested positive for any drug use in 1999.⁶

Drug arrests lead to drug crime charges...

- In 1995 and 1996, approximately 17,000 Class 4 drug cases went through the Cook County Criminal Courts, making up over 60% of the drug felony cases filed there.⁷

Drug crime charges lead to drug crime sentences imposed...

- The number of state prison sentences imposed in Illinois for drug crimes increased from 8,824 in 1992 to 16,045 in 2004, an 82% increase. Cook County sentences made up a large portion of the statewide figures: in 1992, Cook County drug sentences contributed 6,581 to the statewide total, and in 2004, that number had increased to 10,005, a 52% increase.⁸
- Drug offenders in Illinois state prisons make up the highest percentage of sentences imposed, at 39.6%.⁹

Drug sentences imposed lead to incarceration...

- Since state fiscal year (SFY) 1999, the number of new inmates entering Illinois prisons has grown from 19,762 to 25,124 (SFY 2005), a 27% increase.¹⁰
- In 2004, non-violent drug offenders made up 42% of Illinois state prison admissions, 43% of exits, and 25% of total population.¹¹
- In 2004, Class 4 drug possession (Class 4 is the category representing the least serious offenses) was by far the leading offense type among both entering and exiting state prisoners in Illinois, comprising 22% of admissions and 23% of exits.¹²
- Prison admissions for drug offenses in Cook County increased from 3,618 in 1992 to 7,771 in 2004, an increase of 115%.¹³
- In 2004, Cook County admissions made up 64% of all Illinois state prison admissions for drug crimes.¹⁴

- Between 1994 and 2003, state prison admissions from Cook County for *violent* crimes decreased 11%, admissions for property crimes increased 11%, and admissions for *drug* crimes increased 39%.¹⁵
- In SFY 2003, violent offenders accounted for 22% and property offenders accounted for 25% of all admissions from Cook County, compared to 29% and 27% respectively in SFY 1994. Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, drug offenders increased from 41% to 48% of all admissions from Cook County.¹⁶

Total Number of Adult Inmates in Illinois Prisons (SFY 2005): 44,669¹⁷
 Number of Drug Offenders in Illinois Prisons in December 1992: 5,820¹⁸
 Number of Drug Offenders in Illinois Prisons in June 2005: 11,119¹⁹ (91% increase)

Total Supervised Population in or from Cook County (approximate):

Probation (December 2003): 43,814²⁰
 Incarcerated in Cook County Jail (avg. 2003 daily population): 12,778²¹ (increased 30% since 1994)
 Incarcerated in Illinois prisons (June 2005): 24,365²²
 Parole (2005): 19,561²³

APPROXIMATE TOTAL 100,518

¹ NDIC. (2001). Overview, Illinois Drug Threat Assessment. National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Department of Justice. Retrieved July 17, 2006, from <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/652/overview.htm>.

² ICJIA. (2004). A Profile of Cook County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems. Research and Program Evaluation in Illinois: The Extent and Nature of Drug and Violent Crime in Illinois' Counties. Retrieved July 17, 2006, from <http://www.icjia.org/public/pdf/CountyProfiles/Cook.pdf>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ NIJ. (2000). Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees 1999. National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. NCJ 181426. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/99adlftind.pdf>.

⁷ Office of the Chief Judge of the Criminal Division of Cook County. (1998). Press Release: State's Attorney Devine, Chief Judge O'Connell and Judge Fitzgerald announce new Narcotics Court offering treatment and diversion to drug users would remove nonviolent second offenders from clogged courts and speed disposition in some cases. 20 October 1998. Retrieved July 17, 2006, from http://www.cookcountycourt.org/pressreleases/arch_view.asp?id=223.

⁸ IDOC. (2001; 2004). 2001 Statistical Presentation; 2004 Statistical Presentation. Retrieved July 17, 2006, from <http://www.idoc.state.il.us/subsections/reports/default.shtml>.

⁹ IDOC. (2004). 2004 Statistical Presentation.

¹⁰ IDOC. (1999-2005). 1999-2005 Department Data. Retrieved July 17, 2006, from <http://www.idoc.state.il.us/subsections/reports/default.shtml>.

¹¹ IDOC. (2004). 2004 Statistical Presentation.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ IDOC. (2001; 2004). 2001 Statistical Presentations; 2004 Statistical Presentation.

¹⁴ IDOC 2004 Statistical Presentation.

¹⁵ ICJIA. (2004).

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ IDOC. (2005). 2005 Department Data.

¹⁸ IDOC. (2001). 2001 Statistical Presentation.

¹⁹ IDOC. (2005). 2005 Department Data.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ ICJIA. (2004).

²² IDOC. (2005). 2005 Department Data; ICJIA. (2004).

²³ Statewide Community Safety & Reentry Working Group. (2005). 10 High-Impact Regions. Retrieved July 26, 2006, from <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/reentry/mission.php>.