

CRIME IN ILLINOIS 2004



Presented by the

**Illinois State Police
Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Program**

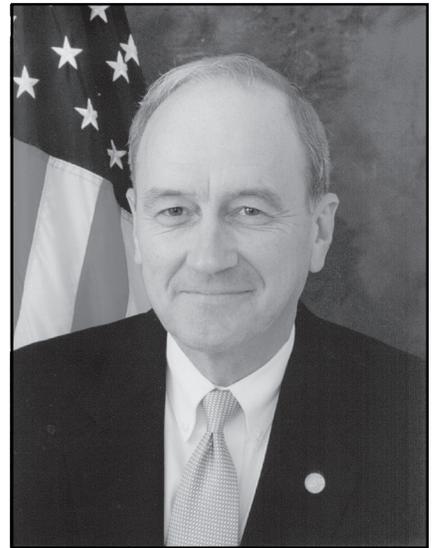
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Contents

PREFACE	v
DEDICATION	vii
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED	ix-x
INTRODUCTION	1
The Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Program	3
Considerations for Interpretation	4
I-UCR Reporting Agencies	5
The Crime Index/Crime Rate	6
Crime Index Offense Classifications	7
SECTION I - CRIME TRENDS	9
A Historical Perspective	11-16
Violent Crimes/Property Crimes	17
State Totals Crime Index Offenses 2000-2004	18
Downstate Illinois Crime Index Offenses 2000-2004	19
Chicago Police Department Crime Index Offenses 2000-2004	20
Cook County Crime Index Offenses 2000-2004	21
Suburban Cook County Crime Index Offenses 2000-2004	22
Collar Counties Crime Index Offenses 2000-2004	23
Urban Counties Crime Index Offenses 2000-2004	24
Rural Counties Crime Index Offenses 2000-2004	25
SECTION II - CRIME INDEX OFFENSE/CRIME RATE DATA	27
Introduction	29-30
State Totals Crime Index Offense Comparison 2004/2003	31
State Totals Crime Index Offenses/Arrest Comparison 2004/2003	31
State of Illinois Total 2004/2003	32
County Totals, Sheriffs' Offices, Police Departments, Universities, & Secretary of State	33-186
Miscellaneous Agencies	187
Illinois State Police, Division of Operations/Investigations	189-193
Illinois State Police, Metropolitan Enforcement Group Units	193
Illinois State Police, Task Forces	194-195
Airports	195
Hospitals	196
Park Districts	196
Railroads	197
Other Agencies	198
SECTION III - CORE BASED STATISTICAL AREAS	199
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas Summary	201
Metropolitan Statistical Areas Summary	202
Metropolitan Divisions Summary	202
Micropolitan Statistical Areas Summary	203
Outside Core Based Statistical Areas Summary	203
Core Based Statistical Areas Map	204
SECTION IV - SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	205
Introduction	207
Domestic Crimes	208
Crimes Against Children	209-211
Crimes Against School Personnel	212-213
Hate Crimes	214-216
SECTION V - LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION	217
Law Enforcement Employment Information	219-238
SECTION VI - APPENDIX	239
Multi-County Jurisdictions	241-258
General Instructions - Monthly Crime Index/Supplemental Forms	259
Monthly Crime Index Form	260
Supplemental Form	261
General Instructions - Hate Crime Form	262
Hate Crime Form	263
Offense Code Table	264



In 1971, police executives, governmental officials, and others recognized the urgent need for crime statistics in Illinois, thus, the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) Program was developed and implemented on January 1, 1972. That need is as great today as it was 33 years ago.

Law enforcement agencies rely on the data to help them support staffing decisions, allocate funding and resources, gauge the effectiveness of specific law enforcement programs, and support legislative and judicial mandates. Many agencies use UCR data to support their requests to secure federal grant monies, to design new crime-fighting initiatives, or to craft anti-crime legislation.

UCR data has also become a staple for researchers, news and information services, academics and others seeking a better understanding of crime in Illinois. Today's UCR data consumer may range from a research analyst at a college or university to an out-of-state resident looking to relocate in Illinois.

The UCR Program is a vital part of this State's efforts to support our partners in law enforcement. The source from which the UCR Program gathers its information is the law enforcement officers who are in a position to know what crimes have been committed and the arrests for these crimes. The dedication and cooperation of these contributors permit the Department to accurately compile the *Crime in Illinois* publication.

With thanks to all who contributed to this publication, I present *Crime in Illinois 2004*.

Larry G. Trent
Director
Illinois State Police

DEDICATION

This publication is dedicated to all law enforcement officers, and in particular, to those police officers who lost their lives during the past year in the performance of duty while endeavoring to uphold the laws of the state of Illinois.

Police Officer Michael P. Gordon
Deputy Sheriff Dane Johns
Police Officer Patrick Michael Righi-Barnard
Detective William Rolniak, Jr.
Police Officer Cristy Sue Tindall
Police Officer Jonathan E. Walsh

***Courage knows no bounds greater than that,
that a man or woman shall give his or her life in the
service of his or her community.***

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED

During 2004, six Illinois law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty. A brief narrative on the circumstances surrounding their death is presented below.

FEBRUARY 4, 2004 - RIVERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Detective William Rolniak, Jr., 39, was shot and killed execution style after being taken hostage inside the Riverdale Police Department. The suspect had been arrested for attempted murder, home invasion, and aggravated kidnapping after breaking into a home and abducting his ex-girlfriend at gunpoint. The suspect had finished being interviewed and was being moved from one room to another in the station when he grabbed Detective Rolniak's service weapon. The suspect was not handcuffed at the time because he had been cooperating with the authorities. The suspect forced Detective Rolniak out of the building, took him behind a building across the street from the police station, and shot him in the head. Detective Rolniak was transported to the hospital where he died a short time later. Detective Rolniak had served with the Riverdale Police Department for 14 years. He is survived by his wife, two teenage daughters, and parents.

JULY 26, 2004 - WILLIAMSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Deputy Sheriff Dane Johns, 45, was accidentally shot and killed when his department issued shotgun discharged as he removed it from his patrol car at the end of his shift. The incident occurred when he attempted to secure the weapon for the night. The shotgun's trigger was depressed by his other equipment which then caused the weapon to discharge. Deputy Johns was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his wounds. Deputy Johns had served with the Williamson County Sheriff's Department for 22 years and had been recognized Deputy of the Year in 2003. He is survived by his wife and three young children.

AUGUST 8, 2004 - CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officer Michael P. Gordon, 30, was killed when the squad car in which he was riding was struck at an intersection by a vehicle operated by an intoxicated driver. Officer Gordon was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Officer Gordon served with the Chicago Police Department for two years and had previously served two years as a police officer with the Riverside Police Department, as well as a military police officer in the U.S. Army. He is survived by his wife, four children, and parents.

AUGUST 20, 2004 - JOLIET POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officer Jonathan E. Walsh, 27, was killed when his patrol car was involved in an accident with a hit-and-run driver. Officer Walsh was responding to a burglar alarm when he suffered fatal injuries after his vehicle collided with a Chevrolet Blazer and then crashed into an unoccupied lift crane parked on the side of the road. Officer Walsh joined the Joliet Police Department in February 2001, was a certified member of the Bicycle Patrol, and served on the Gang Violence Suppression Unit. He previously served for two years as an officer with the Burr Ridge Police Department. Officer Walsh is survived by his parents and two sisters.

NOVEMBER 25, 2004 - BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officer Patrick Michael Righi-Barnard, 30, was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver while assisting a motorist who had just been involved in an accident. Officer Righi-Barnard was off-duty in his personal vehicle enroute to visit relatives for Thanksgiving. While assisting the motorist, another vehicle entered the median and struck Officer Righi-Barnard and the motorist. Officer Righi-Barnard had served with the Burbank Police Department for 10 months, had previously served with the Markham Police Department for six years, and served as a military police officer in the U. S. Army Reserves. He is survived by his fiancée, mother, stepfather, and sister.

DECEMBER 30, 2004 - PEORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officer Cristy Sue Tindall, 33, was killed in an automobile accident while responding to a call. Shortly before 9:30 p.m., Officer Tindall and her partner were responding to a call for back-up when their patrol car struck a utility pole. Officer Tindall was killed and her partner injured. Officer Tindall was a 10 year veteran of the Peoria Police Department. She is survived by her life partner, mother, stepfather, and sister.