

CRIME IN ILLINOIS 2008



Presented by the

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

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Effective law enforcement efforts utilize the compilation of crime statistics in order to identify the extent of criminal activity. Information reported in this publication measures the nature and volume of crime within various jurisdictions in Illinois. In its 37th year of publication, Crime in Illinois remains a valuable tool for enhancing law enforcement and the public's awareness of the impact of crime on their communities.

Law enforcement agencies rely on Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) statistics in determining staffing decisions, allocating funding and resources, gauging the effectiveness of specific programs, and supporting legislative and judicial mandates. I-UCR statistics have also developed into an effective resource for researchers, criminologists, media services, academics, the public, civic organizations, and others seeking a better understanding of the state of crime in Illinois.

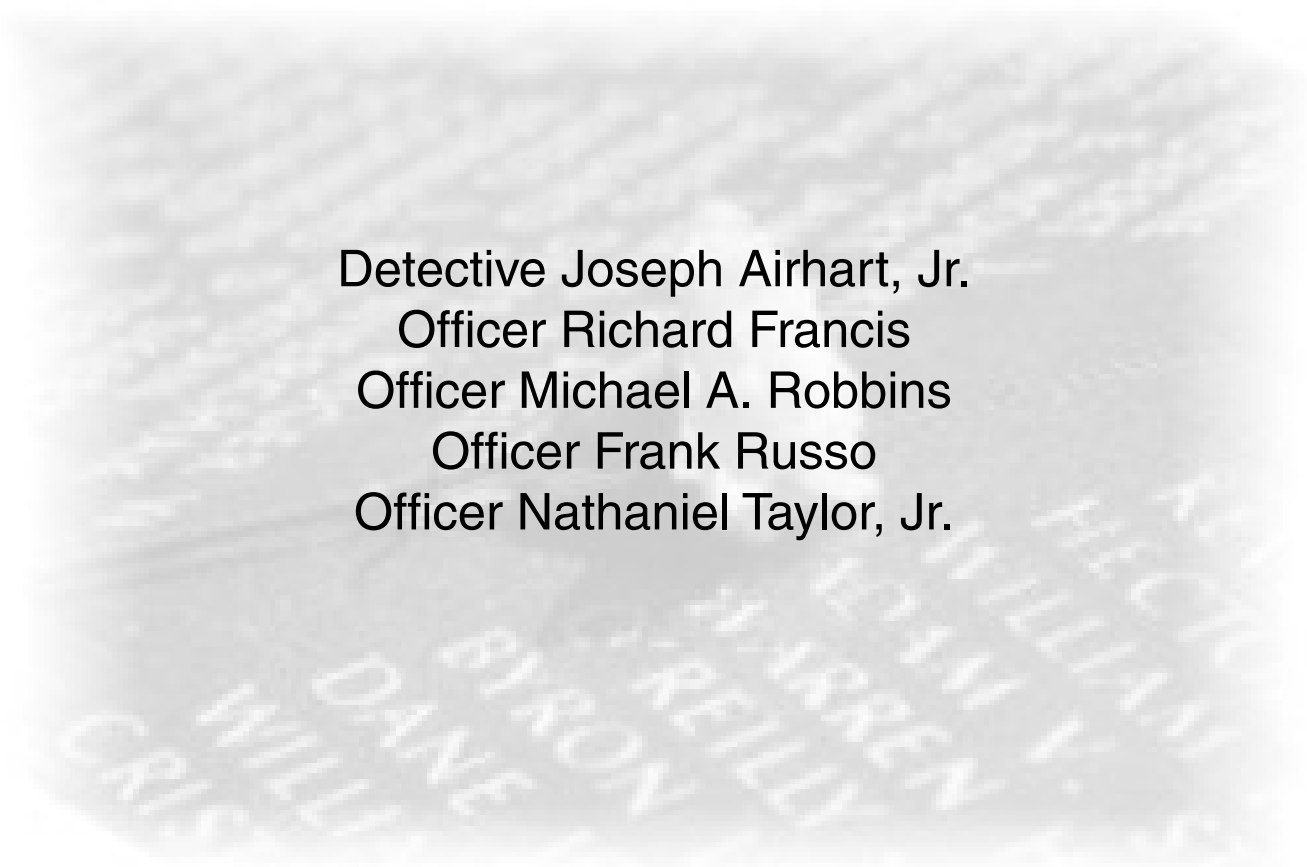
These crime statistics could not have been compiled without the dedication and cooperation of police agencies, sheriffs' offices, and other specialized law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois. The contributions of participating agencies that provided statistical data made possible this comprehensive picture of crime in Illinois.

With thanks to all those whose commitment contributed significantly to this publication, I present Crime in Illinois 2008.

Jonathon E. Monken
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 upholding the laws of the state of Illinois.



Detective Joseph Airhart, Jr.
Officer Richard Francis
Officer Michael A. Robbins
Officer Frank Russo
Officer Nathaniel Taylor, Jr.

***“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.”
(Source Unknown)***

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED

During 2008, five Illinois law enforcement officers lost their lives in the performance of their duties while upholding the laws of the state of Illinois. A brief narrative of the circumstances surrounding their deaths is presented below.

July 2, 2008 - CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officer Richard Francis was shot and killed during a struggle with a suspect. Officer Francis was on routine patrol and responded to a report of a disturbance. Upon arrival, he approached the female, who grabbed his gun shooting him once. The suspect was critically injured when back-up officers opened fire on the female after she threatened them. Officer Francis had served with the Chicago Police Department for 27 years.

September 13, 2008 - CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officer Michael A. Robbins succumbed to wounds sustained 14 years earlier while responding to a call of shots fired in a neighborhood. Upon arrival, a suspect fired multiple times at the officers from an open window, striking Officer Robbins eleven times. Officer Robbins had served with the Chicago Police Department for eight years at the time of the incident.

September 28, 2008 - CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officer Nathaniel Taylor, Jr. was shot and killed while executing a search warrant. The suspect arrived while officers were still at the scene. When officers approached the suspect, he opened fire, striking Officer Taylor three times. Officer Taylor was transported to the hospital where he died a short time later. Officer Taylor was a United States Marine Corps veteran and had served with the Chicago Police Department for 14 years.

November 1, 2008 - SCHAUMBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officer Frank Russo suffered a fatal heart attack while struggling with a suspect following a foot pursuit. Officer Russo and another officer were attempting to arrest a man causing a disturbance at a local club. The suspect fled the scene and a struggle ensued following a brief pursuit. During the struggle, Officer Russo collapsed. He was transported to the hospital where he died a short time later. Officer Russo had served with the Schaumburg Police Department for 19 years.

November 4, 2008 - CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Detective Joseph Airhart, Jr. succumbed to wounds sustained seven years earlier while leading an Federal Bureau of Investigations Task Force raid at the home of a bank robbery suspect. Upon entering the home, the suspect opened fire on the officers. Detective Airhart was wounded and held hostage for two hours before the suspect was taken into custody. Detective Airhart had served with the Chicago Police Department for 19 years at the time of the incident.

