

# **CRIME IN ILLINOIS 2001**



**Presented by the**

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

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## **PREFACE**

In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of publication, the Illinois State Police continues to add useful information to improve the readability of *Crime in Illinois*.

This year's publication includes a change for jurisdictions with populations in more than one county. In previous years, data for jurisdictions with populations in more than one county were included in the county total where the majority of the population resided. Since a sheriff's office population is calculated by subtracting the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) agencies' population from the county population total, multi-county jurisdictions may impact a sheriff's office crime rate. Therefore, unless otherwise noted, the I-UCR Program has proportioned each of the multi-county jurisdictions' crime rate, crime index total, and each of the eight crime index offenses based on the percentage of the population residing in each county.

The 2001 statewide figures reflect a 2.9 percent decline in the total number of crimes reported when compared to the 2000 figures. This is consistent with the decline in the total number of crimes reported over the last ten years.

With thanks to all who contributed to this publication, I present *Crime in Illinois 2001*.

Sam W. Nolen  
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.

SERGEANT MYRON G. DECKARD  
OFFICER DONAN JAMES FAULKNER, JR.  
OFFICER ERIC D. LEE  
DETECTIVE KEVIN DARRELL RICE, SR.  
SERGEANT HECTOR A. SILVA  
SHERIFF OREN EUGENE SMITH\*  
OFFICER BRIAN T. STROUSE  
MASTER SERGEANT STANLEY W. TALBOT

*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.*

The Illinois State Police would like to express its appreciation to all personnel who assisted in this publication and to the law enforcement agencies who provided the information.

\*Sheriff Oren Eugene Smith, who lost his life in 2000, was inadvertently omitted from the *Crime in Illinois 2000* publication. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize him for his dedication to the community.





## **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED**

During 2001, seven Illinois law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty. A brief narrative on the circumstances surrounding their death is presented below.

### **JUNE 5, 2001 - VERMILION COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sergeant Myron G. Deckard was shot and killed with his own weapon by a suspect he was transporting to jail. Sergeant Deckard, the agency's warrant officer, had arrested the man in Hillsboro, Illinois, on an outstanding traffic warrant and was transporting him back to Vermilion County. Though restrained in handcuffs attached to a restraining belt, the man freed himself from the waist restraint and reached over the back seat of the cruiser. He forced Sergeant Deckard to drive off the side of I-72 in Macon County, and a struggle ensued. During the struggle, the suspect gained control of Sergeant Deckard's handgun and shot him. After the incident, the man hitchhiked to a nearby sheriff's office and turned himself in, telling them he had just killed a deputy. A search ensued and officers located Sergeant Deckard still in his vehicle. Sergeant Deckard was 72 years old and had been with the agency for 30 years. He is survived by his wife and son.

### **JUNE 23, 2001 - ILLINOIS STATE POLICE**

Master Sergeant Stanley W. Talbot was killed after being dragged by a vehicle which was fleeing a roadside safety check in Rock Island, Illinois. As the vehicle neared the checkpoint, Master Sergeant Talbot approached it and somehow became entangled with the car as the driver fled the scene. Master Sergeant Talbot was dragged approximately four and a half blocks before falling from the vehicle. Other officers on the scene attempted to stop the vehicle after commandeering a car, but were not able to stop it. The driver of the vehicle was apprehended approximately two weeks later and was charged with two counts of murder. Master Sergeant Talbot had been with the agency for 26 years and was six months from retirement. He is survived by his wife and daughter, both of whom are police officers with the Illinois State Police, and a son.

### **JUNE 30, 2001 - CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Officer Brian T. Strouse was shot and killed while he and two other officers investigated a call of sporadic gang-related gunfire in the Pilsen area of the city. The officers, working a plain clothes tactical detail, exited their police vehicle at approximately 2 a.m. to search the area. Though attempting to keep each other in view, a large crowd moved into the area causing the other officers to lose sight of Officer Strouse. A 16-year-old gang member, who was acting as a security patrol for the gang's drug dealers, opened fire on Officer Strouse -- continuing to fire even after he identified himself as an officer. The other two officers ran towards the sound of the gunshots where they found Officer Strouse lying on the ground. Officer Strouse was transported to a local hospital where he died approximately seven hours later. The suspect was arrested shortly after the shooting and charged as an adult with first degree murder. Officer Strouse had been with the agency for six years and is survived by his parents and three sisters.

### **AUGUST 3, 2001 - ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Detective Kevin Darrell Rice, Sr. was fatally shot in the early morning hours of August 3, 2001. Off duty, Detective Rice was returning to his sister's house when he observed two individuals in hooded sweatshirts about two blocks from the residence. He turned his vehicle around and asked them what they were doing. One of the suspects immediately pulled out a .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun and fatally shot the detective at close range. The 19-year-old suspect was apprehended the next day and charged with first degree murder. The man had just been released four months earlier for a murder he committed when he was 12-years-old. Detective Rice had been with the agency for 14 years and is survived by his wife and three children.

### **AUGUST 19, 2001 - CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Officer Eric D. Lee was shot and killed as he and two other tactical officers attempted to break up a fight. The three officers were on a special tactical patrol when they happened upon three men beating up a fourth man in an alley. The officers exited their cruiser and identified themselves. When they did so, shots were fired and Officer Lee was struck in the head. Several suspects were apprehended and held for questioning. The shooter was charged with murder. Officer Lee was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and had been with the agency for nine years. He is survived by his wife and six-year-old daughter.

### **SEPTEMBER 20, 2001 - PEORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Officer Donan James Faulkner, Jr. was shot and killed while on patrol shortly after midnight. While talking with a group of subjects, Officer Faulkner observed another subject commit a traffic violation. After confronting the suspect, he became involved in a foot chase between two buildings. Officer Faulkner was shot five times approximately two blocks from his cruiser, which was found with its spotlight activated. The suspect was apprehended the following day. Officer Faulkner was a two-time recipient of his agency's Distinguished Service Award and had been with the agency for seven years. He is survived by his wife and five children.

### **OCTOBER 2, 2001 - CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Sergeant Hector A. Silva died after developing a blood clot in his brain during a training exercise. He had just completed the strenuous physical activities involved with the Special Operations gas team training when he began to feel dizzy. Sergeant Silva was transported to the hospital where he underwent emergency surgery. He died the following day. Sergeant Silva had been with the agency for 11 years and is survived by his wife and two children.

### **JANUARY 19, 2000 - EDWARDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT\***

Sheriff Oren Eugene Smith succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning after responding to a medical call where a couple had also been overtaken by carbon monoxide. Upon arriving on the scene, Sheriff Smith entered the house and pulled the couple outside. While doing so, he was exposed to a high level of carbon monoxide and had to be admitted to the hospital. He died two days later. Sheriff Smith had been with the agency for 24 years and is survived by his wife and two children.

\*Sheriff Oren Eugene Smith, who lost his life in 2000, was inadvertently omitted from the *Crime in Illinois 2000* publication.