

CRIME IN ILLINOIS 2003



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
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 1999-2003	18
Downstate Illinois Crime Index Offenses 1999-2003	19
Chicago Police Department Crime Index Offenses 1999-2003	20
Cook County Crime Index Offenses 1999-2003	21
Suburban Cook County Crime Index Offenses 1999-2003	22
Collar Counties Crime Index Offenses 1999-2003	23
Urban Counties Crime Index Offenses 1999-2003	24
Rural Counties Crime Index Offenses 1999-2003	25
SECTION II - CRIME INDEX OFFENSE/CRIME RATE DATA	27
Introduction	29-30
State Totals Crime Index Offense Comparison 2003/2002	31
State Totals Crime Index Offenses/Arrest Comparison 2003/2002	31
State of Illinois Total 2003/2002	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 its 35th year of publication, *Crime in Illinois* remains an informative tool for enhancing law enforcement and the public's awareness of the impact of crime on their communities.

The *Crime in Illinois 2003* publication provides valuable information to law enforcement personnel, members of state government, and other groups including academic, civic, and research organizations. The information reported in this publication measures the nature and volume of crime within various jurisdictions in Illinois.

These crime statistics could not have been accurately compiled without the dedication and cooperation of all police agencies, sheriffs' offices, and other specialized law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois. The contributions of those involved in providing statistical data permit the Department to present a comprehensive picture of crime in Illinois.

The 2003 statewide figures reflect a 4.1 percent decline in the total number of crimes reported when compared to the 2002 figures. This is consistent with the decline in the total number of crimes reported over the last decade. The number of crimes reported declined in each crime index category presented in this report.

With thanks to all who have contributed to this publication, I present *Crime in Illinois 2003*.

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.

Officer Eric E. DeWit
Deputy Sheriff James J. Mulay
Sergeant Philip J. O'Reilly

*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.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED

During 2003, three Illinois law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty. A brief narrative on the circumstances surrounding their death is presented below.

FEBRUARY 17, 2003 - MATTESON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Eric E. DeWit, 22, was killed in an automobile accident at approximately 3:30 a.m. while responding to back-up another officer. Officer DeWit, with his emergency lights activated, was traveling westbound when another vehicle turned in front of his patrol car causing him to take evasive action to avoid a collision. The patrol car struck a fire hydrant, causing fatal injuries to Officer DeWit. Officer DeWit had been with the agency for four months and is survived by his wife and 1-month-old daughter.

MARCH 16, 2003 - CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Philip J. O'Reilly, 41, was killed in an automobile accident while on routine patrol. Sergeant O'Reilly's patrol car was struck at approximately 5:00 a.m. by a tow truck at an intersection. Sergeant O'Reilly was ejected from his patrol car upon impact. The driver of the tow truck was charged with driving too fast for conditions. Sergeant O'Reilly was assigned to the Foster Police District and had been with the Chicago Police Department for 16 years. He is survived by his wife and six children.

MAY 19, 2003 - PEORIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Deputy Sheriff James J. Mulay, 30, was killed when his patrol car was broadsided at approximately 1:00 a.m. by a suspected drunk driver. Deputy Mulay was on patrol when the other vehicle entered the intersection and struck his patrol car on the passenger side. Deputy Mulay suffered fatal injuries as a result of the accident. Deputy Mulay had been with the Peoria County Sheriff's Department for seven years. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

