January 2001

Illinois

Drug Threat Assessment



National Drug Intelligence Center
U.S. Department of Justice

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Preface

This report is a strategic assessment that addresses the status and outlook of the drug threat in Illinois. Analytical judgment determined the threat posed by each drug type or category, taking into account the most current quantitative and qualitative information on availability, demand, production or cultivation, transportation, and distribution, as well as the effects of a particular drug on abusers and society as a whole. While NDIC sought to incorporate the latest available information, a time lag often exists between collection and publication of data, particularly demand-related data sets. NDIC anticipates that this drug threat assessment will be useful to policymakers, law enforcement personnel, and treatment providers at the federal, state, and local levels because it draws upon a broad range of information sources to describe and analyze the drug threat in Illinois.

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Illinois Drug Threat Assessment

Executive Summary

The state of Illinois, specifically the Chicago area, is the focal point for the flow of illicit drugs into the Great Lakes Region. Chicago is the major hub for the delivery and transshipment of drugs throughout the Great Lakes Region and the Midwest. Three major types of trafficking groups are responsible for most of the drugs in Illinois. Mexican poly-drug organizations, Colombian drug organizations trafficking in cocaine and heroin, and Nigerian groups trafficking in Southeast Asian heroin are the major transporters and wholesale distributors of drugs in Chicago. The most common means traffickers use to transport drugs into Chicago are commercial trucks, passenger vehicles, package delivery services, air packages or couriers, and railways. Organized street gangs such as the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings control the distribution and retail sale of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Violent crime associated with street gangs, while declining in some major urban areas, is increasing in suburban and rural areas of the state as these gangs expand their drug markets.

Drugs are readily available throughout the state; however, the nature of the drug threat in Illinois varies by region. The primary drug threats in the Northern and Central U.S. Attorney Districts of Illinois and in the urban areas of the Southern District are the availability of **powdered cocaine** and the distribution and abuse of **crack cocaine**. Treatment admissions for cocaine abuse in Illinois more than doubled between 1990 and 1997 and have stabilized at a high level. Crack cocaine abuse by Hispanics, females, and youth is increasing. In 1995, Cook County alone was estimated to have over 266,000 hardcore cocaine abusers. Law enforcement sources report that violent crime associated with the sale and abuse of crack is one of the most serious problems in Illinois.

The increasing availability of high purity **heroin** and the number of new users represent a secondary threat, particularly in the Chicago area. Increasing numbers of young, white, suburban users are contributing to the resurgent popularity of heroin. The availability of less expensive, higher purity heroin led to increased abuse over the past decade.

Marijuana remains the most readily available and most abused drug in Illinois. Marijuana abuse spans a wide spectrum of age, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. Abuse by young people has increased dramatically since the early 1990s. Over the past 10 years, marijuana abuse by eighth-grade students has tripled.

Methamphetamine production and abuse are expanding from states that border Illinois such as Missouri, Iowa, and Indiana into rural areas of Illinois in the Southern and Central U.S. Attorney Districts. Methamphetamine is growing in popularity because it has a lower cost and longer euphoric effect than crack cocaine. The rate of increase in the number of methamphetamine laboratories in Illinois parallels previous increases in other states in the region. The number of laboratory seizures in these other states has escalated significantly.

Other Dangerous Drugs such as MDMA (or ecstasy), ketamine, and GHB are becoming increasingly popular, particularly among young people in urban areas and in college towns.

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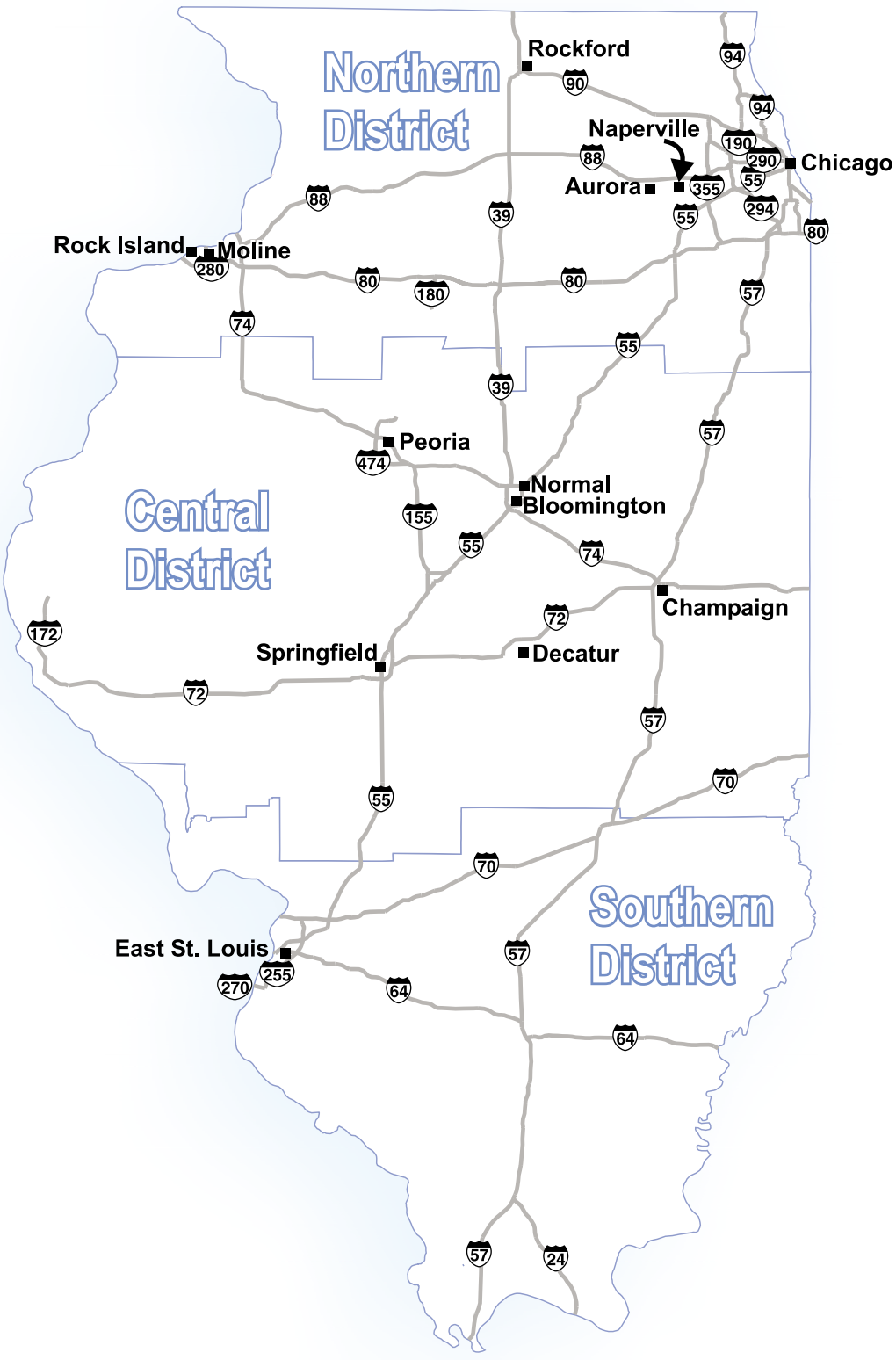
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Illinois Drug Threat Assessment

Overview

Illinois is the fifth largest state in the nation, with a population of 12.4 million people. Chicago is the third largest city in the United States with a population of nearly 3 million. Two-thirds of the population of Illinois is concentrated in Cook County (the Chicago metropolitan area) and the surrounding six "collar" counties, which have an ethnically diverse population of over 8 million.

Chicago is a transportation hub and distribution center for both licit and illicit commodities in the Great Lakes Region and the Midwest, due in part to its geographic location and multifaceted transportation infrastructure. Chicago is the nation's largest trucking center with over 200 truck terminals. Annually, nearly $800 billion worth of goods shipped by truck are either destined for, or pass through, Illinois, ranking it first in the nation.

Commercial trucks, passenger vehicles, package delivery services, air packages or couriers, and railways are the most common means traffickers use to transport drugs into Chicago. Drugs concealed in shipments of legitimate goods, transported by private vehicle, or shipped via mail or package services have an excellent chance of reaching their destination because of the sheer volume of trucks, railcars, private vehicles, ships, and parcels that transit the state on a daily basis. In 1997, over $42 billion worth of freight was destined for Illinois from the major drug arrival zone states of Texas, California, Florida, New York, and New Jersey.

Chicago is also home to the world's busiest rail yards and serves as the principal transshipment point for commodities shipped from Mexico to Canada and between the East and West Coasts.

Fast Facts

Illinois	
Population (2000)	12.4 million
U.S. ranking	5th
Median income (1998)	$41,238
Unemployment rate (2000)	4.3%
Land area	56,400 sq mi (146,076 km)
Shoreline	63 miles (101 km)
Capital	Springfield
Principal cities	Chicago, Rockford, Peoria, Springfield, Aurora, Naperville
Number of counties	102
Principal industries	Services, manufacturing, agricultural, chemicals, printing

The combined interstate and state highway system in Illinois is a very efficient network for the movement of vehicular traffic within the state and to other parts of the country. O'Hare International Airport is among the busiest airports in the world, offering connections to over 60 international cities for both passengers and cargo. In 1997, O'Hare International Airport handled over $36 billion worth of foreign airfreight. The St. Louis Lambert International Airport serves downstate areas of Illinois with passenger and air cargo service. Chicago, a major Great Lakes port with connections to the Atlantic Ocean through the St. Lawrence Seaway, has four general cargo harbors that handle almost 30 million metric tons of cargo annually. However, the truck, rail, and air shipments into Illinois dwarf the volume of maritime freight transiting the state. Chicago is home to the busiest postal facility in the world, and private parcel services also handle millions of packages each year.

Chicago's status as a major financial center presents opportunities for laundering the vast sums of money that are generated from the trafficking of drugs. Chicago is recognized as an important regional, national, and international financial center. Significant financial institutions located in Chicago include the Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Federal Reserve Bank, as well as 300 U.S. banks and 40 foreign branch banks. Chicago is also the world headquarters for 39 of the Fortune 500 companies.

Reports from the Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and other federal law enforcement agencies indicate that Chicago is a hub for money laundering activity by major drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). Traditionally, money laundering in Chicago was accomplished by investing profits from illegal drug sales into legal, mostly cash, businesses such as nightclubs and grocery stores. Today, new and increasingly sophisticated money laundering techniques are being used. The Chicago HIDTA reports that some foreign banks operating in Chicago may not be as compliant with U.S. regulations as domestic banks. Many foreign banks with offices in Chicago are licensed in countries with lax banking laws and greater adherence to bank secrecy principles, both of which support money laundering activities. Money exchange houses and businesses that wire money are also used to transfer and conceal drug profits through wire transfers, money orders, and traveler's checks. U.S. Customs Service (USCS) intelligence confirms that illegal currency is also physically transported out of the Chicago area and ultimately smuggled out of the United States via cargo, passenger or private aircraft, or vessel.

The state of Illinois, specifically the Chicago area, is the focal point for the flow of drugs into the Great Lakes Region. Chicago is the major hub for the delivery and transshipment of drugs throughout the Great Lakes Region and the Midwest. Three major types of trafficking groups are responsible for most of the drugs in Illinois. Mexican polydrug organizations, Colombian DTOs trafficking in cocaine and South American (SA) heroin, and Nigerian groups trafficking in Southeast Asian (SEA) heroin are the major transporters and wholesale distributors of drugs in Chicago. (See Table 1.)

African-American and Hispanic street gangs have a virtual stranglehold on street-level distribution, which is their main source of income. Organized street gangs such as the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings control the distribution and retail sales of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana throughout the state. Most federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in Illinois cite the violent crime associated with gang-related drug trafficking as the most serious criminal threat to the state. Violent crime associated with street gangs, while declining in some major urban areas, is increasing in suburban and rural areas as these gangs expand their drug markets. Even though violent crime is declining in Chicago, almost half of residents surveyed in 1998 were fearful of neighborhood crime. This was the highest level of fear measured in the 12 cities that were surveyed.

Table 1. Primary Drug Traffickers, Chicago, 2000

Organization	International	Local	Primary Drugs
Asians	X	X	Heroin
Colombians	X		Powdered Cocaine, Heroin, Marijuana
Gangster Disciples		X	Crack Cocaine, Heroin, Marijuana
Hells Angels/Outlaws	X	X	Marijuana, ODD, Methamphetamine, Powdered Cocaine
Independents		X	Powdered Cocaine, Marijuana, ODD
Jamaicans	X	X	Marijuana, Powdered Cocaine
Latin Kings		X	Crack Cocaine, Heroin, Marijuana
Mexicans	X	X	Powdered Cocaine, Heroin, Marijuana, Methamphetamine
Nigerians	X		Heroin
Vice Lords		X	Crack Cocaine, Heroin, Marijuana

Source: Chicago HIDTA, *Threat Assessment FY2000.*

Gangster Disciples

The Gangster Disciples, the largest Chicago-based street gang, is affiliated with the Folk Nation. The makeup of the Gangster Disciples is primarily African American. It has been in existence since the early 1960s and functions with a structure similar to a corporation. It conducts illegal drug operations throughout the Chicago area, primarily in low-income areas on the South and West Sides of the city. It operates drug distribution networks throughout the state of Illinois and has been identified in over 40 states across the nation. The Gangster Disciples has been in a state of flux because law enforcement authorities have targeted it in recent years. These investigations resulted in indictments and convictions of almost 40 leaders, including Larry Hoover who served as "Chairman of the Board" since the early 1970s. The retail drug operations of the Gangster Disciples were reportedly worth over $100 million annually at their peak.

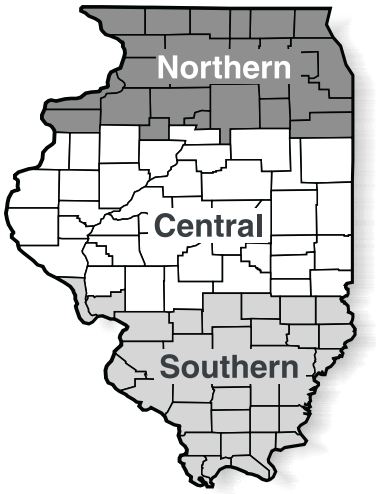
Vice Lords

The Vice Lords, the oldest street gang in Chicago, is affiliated with the People Nation. Its members are predominantly African Americans. The Vice Lords is split among major factions such as the Conservative Vice Lords, Traveling Vice Lords, and Four Corner Hustlers. Each faction has distinct membership and organization that is not as structured as the Gangster Disciples. The Vice Lords operates its drug distribution networks in Chicago, in neighboring counties, and in surrounding states.

Latin Kings

The Latin Kings, also known as the Almighty Latin King Nation, is a predominantly Hispanic street gang made up of over 70 factions affiliated with the People Nation. It operates drug distribution enterprises on the North and Southeast Sides of Chicago and has expanded throughout the state and nation.

United States Attorney Districts



The nature of the drug threat in Illinois varies by region.[1] The primary drug threat in the Northern and Central U.S. Attorney Districts of Illinois and in the urban areas of the Southern District is the availability, distribution, and abuse of powdered and crack cocaine. The increasing availability of high purity heroin and the number of new users represent a secondary threat, particularly in the Chicago area. Marijuana remains the most readily available and most abused drug in Illinois. Methamphetamine production and abuse are expanding from bordering states (Missouri, Iowa, and Indiana) into rural areas of parts of the Central and Southern U.S. Attorney Districts. Other dangerous drugs such as MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy), ketamine, and GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate) are becoming increasingly popular, particularly among young people in urban areas and in college towns.

The availability of drugs in Illinois is at an all-time high. Drug seizures by law enforcement authorities have risen significantly since the early 1990s. The street value of drugs seized by the Chicago Police Department rose from $204 million to $348 million between 1998 and 1999. The Chicago Police Department Narcotics Division confiscated more drugs in the first 5 months of 1999 than in the previous 2 years combined. Cocaine and marijuana seizures by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have also increased dramatically since the early 1990s.

Drug arrests in Illinois, one of a number of indicators used to measure both the availability and abuse of drugs, have increased markedly over the past two decades. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority correlates the dramatic increases in arrests and treatment admissions to numerous factors. These include increased focus on drug enforcement by local police departments, increased visibility of specific drug markets, increased reporting by citizens of illegal drug activity, increased frequency of court-ordered drug treatment for convicted offenders, and increased resources allocated for drug enforcement and substance abuse treatment programs throughout Illinois. Drug arrests reached an all-time high in 1999, more than three times the number recorded in 1985. (See Chart 1.) During the early to mid-1980s, approximately 10 percent of individuals arrested under the Illinois Controlled Substances Act were sentenced to prison. This proportion increased to 30 percent by the end of the 1990s.

Federal criminal prosecutions also support the assertion that drug trafficking and abuse are a significant problem in Illinois. In fiscal year (FY) 1998, 50.7 percent (466) of federal sentences in Illinois were for primary drug offenses compared to 40.2 percent nationwide. Federal sentences for crack violations were well above the national average in all three Illinois districts.

Other measures of the increase in drug abuse in Illinois are confirmed through healthcare statistics and deaths attributed to drug abuse. Statewide treatment admissions for all drugs more than tripled in the past decade according to the Illinois Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (OASA). According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the rate of Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) emergency department (ED) mentions

1. Analytical judgment determined the threat posed by each drug type or category, taking into account quantitative and qualitative information on availability, demand, production and cultivation, transportation, and distribution as well as the effects of a particular drug on abusers and on society as a whole.

per 100,000 in Chicago has risen steadily, nearly doubling over the past decade. In addition, there were 803 drug-related deaths in Chicago in 1998, an increase of 32 percent over 1995 statistics.

The abuse of drugs by Illinois high school students is occurring at an alarmingly high level. More than half of all students in the tenth through twelfth grades used drugs at least once in their lifetime, while nearly 25 percent used drugs in the past month.

In 1995, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) funded a long-term study of Cook County cocaine and heroin abusers to estimate the number of hardcore drug abusers in the United States. Results of the study estimated that there could be over 330,000 hardcore cocaine and heroin abusers in Cook County, approximately 6 percent of the county population. See Table 2 for a profile of these chronic drug users.

Chart 1. Illinois State Drug Arrests

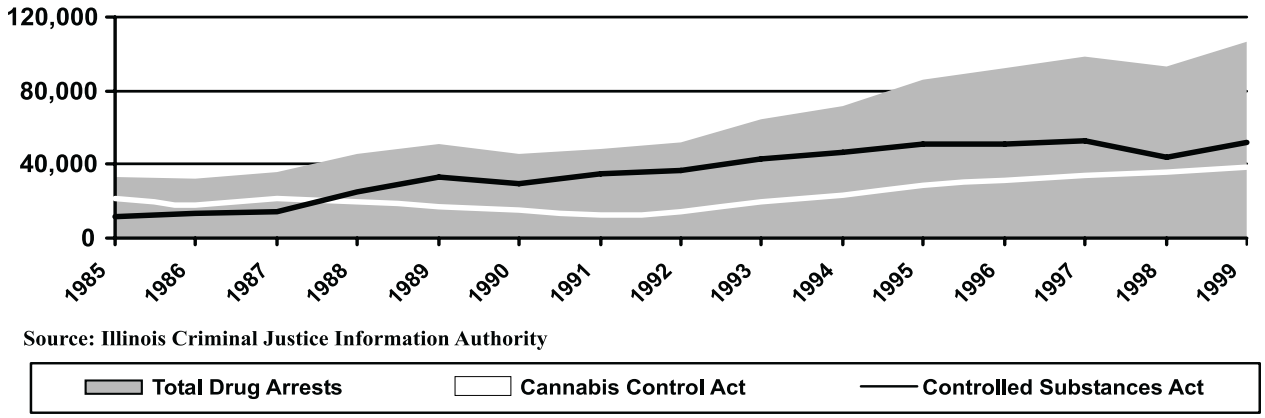


Table 2. Cocaine and Heroin Abusers, Cook County, 1995

User Type	Estimated Number	Percent of Total
Male	242,906	73
Female	89,842	27
Black	246,234	74
Other	86,514	26
Age 18–30	103,152	31
Age 31–40	169,701	51
Age 41+	56,567	17
Years of use 0–5	83,187	25
Years of use 5–10	116,462	35
Years of use 10–20	96,497	29
Years of use 20+	39,930	12
Heroin	23,292	7
Cocaine or Crack	266,198	80
Cocaine or Crack and Heroin	39,930	12
Total	**332,748**	

Source: Abt Associates, Inc., Drug Policy Research Group, *A Plan for Estimating the Number of Hardcore Drug Users in the United States: Preliminary Findings*, 1997.

Cocaine

The availability, distribution, and abuse of powdered and crack cocaine constitute the primary drug threat in the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois and in the urban areas of the Southern District. (See Appendix for responses to the NDIC National Drug Threat Survey 2000.) Crack cocaine is the drug most often associated with violent crime throughout the state. Mexican DTOs are the primary transporters of powdered cocaine into the state of Illinois. These DTOs transport large shipments of powdered cocaine from the Southwest Border intermixed with legitimate goods in tractor-trailers. Mexican criminal groups are the primary wholesale distributors of powdered cocaine. African-American and Hispanic street gangs control the street-level distribution of crack cocaine throughout Illinois.

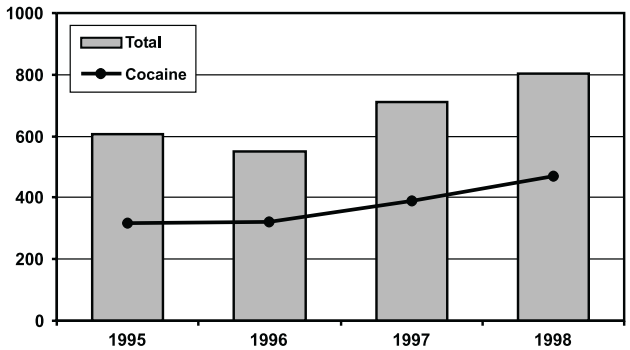
Abuse

Crack cocaine abuse is the most serious drug problem in Illinois, particularly in Chicago and other urban areas. In 1995, Cook County alone was estimated to have more than 266,000 hardcore cocaine abusers. Law enforcement authorities report that crack cocaine is the principal drug of abuse in northern Illinois and in urban areas such as Springfield, Peoria, and Champaign in the central part of the state. The Community Epidemiology Work Group (CEWG) indicates that the extent of crack abuse in Chicago appears to have stabilized at a high level. However, abuse by Hispanics, females, and youth is increasing, according to the ONDCP. Treatment admissions for cocaine abuse more than doubled in Illinois since 1990, according to the Illinois OASA. The percentage of eighth- to twelfth-grade students in Illinois using powdered or crack cocaine in the past year increased between 1995 and 1997, then decreased slightly in 1998. More than 5 percent of high school seniors in Illinois used cocaine in the past year.

DAWN ED mentions and other health care measurements also support the contention that cocaine abuse is a significant problem in Illinois. According to DAWN statistics, Chicago experienced a steady growth in the number of cocaine-related ED mentions over the past decade, more than doubling between 1991 and 1998. Cocaine was mentioned in nearly half of all 1997 drug-related ED mentions in Chicago, compared to 30 percent nationwide. In addition, 57 percent of infants born in Illinois with a positive toxicity for controlled substances tested positive for cocaine in 1998. The average hospital cost for the delivery and care of a cocaine-exposed infant is over $13,000, more than 10 times the cost for a drug-free infant of similar socioeconomic status. The long-term cost to society is much higher and includes providing child protective services, child welfare services, police services, out-of-home care, medical expenses, and special education.

Deaths attributed to cocaine abuse also bear out the magnitude of the problem. Over 58 percent of the 803 drug-related deaths in Chicago during 1998 (most recent data available) were cocaine-related, a 20 percent increase over 1997 numbers.[2] (See Chart 2.)

Chart 2. Chicago DAWN Drug Abuse Deaths



Source: DAWN *Annual Medical Examiner Data, 1998.*

2. A cocaine-related death is one in which the Medical Examiner has concluded that cocaine use contributed to the death, but was not its sole cause.

Increased drug arrests are another measure of the enormity of the cocaine problem in Illinois. Arrests under the Illinois Controlled Substances Act, most of which were for cocaine offenses, increased by more than 450 percent from 1984 to 1999. Statistics from the National Institute of Justice Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) Program reveal that over 50 percent of males and 70 percent of females arrested in Chicago in 1998 tested positive for cocaine.

Availability

Powdered and crack cocaine are increasingly available throughout Illinois. The total amount of cocaine seized by law enforcement in the Chicago area increased 68 percent from 1997 to 1998. The Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) indicates that the amount of cocaine seized in Illinois in FY1998 was equal to that of the 3 previous years combined.[3] In 1998, over 9,000 kilograms of cocaine were seized in the Chicago area, and the amount of cocaine seized by the Chicago Police Department nearly doubled in 1999. The Chicago Police Department seized 757 kilograms of cocaine (street value $94 million) from a van on the Northwest Side in February 2000. The largest drug seizure in Chicago history took place in February 1999 when the Chicago Police Department confiscated over 1,100 kilograms of cocaine (street value $143 million) in the suburb of Crestwood.

Low prices and high purity levels also suggest that there is an abundant supply of cocaine throughout the state. Cocaine prices statewide averaged between $95 and $100 per gram for the past decade. Cocaine prices declined slightly in Chicago in 1998 while purity remained stable at 60 to 70 percent over the past decade in Chicago and statewide. See Table 3 for current prices in Chicago.

Table 3. Cocaine Prices, Chicago, 2000

Amount	Crack Cocaine	Powdered Cocaine
Rock	$10	
Gram		$75–$100
Ounce	$500–$800	$900–$1,100
Kilogram		$18,000–$25,000

Source: DEA Chicago Field Division, *Trends in the Traffic 2d Quarter FY2000*.

Violence

Crack cocaine is the drug most often associated with violent crime throughout the state. Most federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in Illinois cite the violent crime associated with gang-related drug trafficking as the most serious criminal threat to the state. Crack is the drug of choice in lower income and high crime areas, such as public housing projects, and is becoming more popular in suburban and rural areas of the state. Property and violent crime rates are fueled by the nearly one-third of the estimated 266,000 crack users in the Chicago area who are daily users and often commit crimes to support their habit. In a survey of cocaine and heroin users in six major cities, Chicago drug users had the highest rate of participation (24 percent) in illegal activities to provide income for their drug purchases.

Gang migration from Chicago to other Illinois cities and to suburban and rural areas has

3. The Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) reports seizures made within the jurisdiction of the United States by DEA, FBI, U.S. Customs, U.S. Border Patrol, and maritime seizures by the U.S. Coast Guard. Only seizures that exceed certain threshold weights are included in these statistics. (Heroin - 100 grams; Cocaine - 500 grams; Marijuana - 25 kilograms).

Cocaine Addict Charged With Series of Stickups

A cocaine addict suspected of nearly 30 armed robberies on Chicago's Northwest Side was arrested on July 23, 2000. According to a police department spokesman, the 39-year-old suspect stole an estimated $20,000 to support his cocaine habit.

Source: *Chicago Sun Times*, 26 July 2000.

increased the availability of crack and associated violent criminal activity in these areas.

Violence associated with gang-controlled crack sales is the primary threat in northern Illinois. According to the Chicago HIDTA, the Cook County Sheriff's Office estimated that 70–80 percent of all property crime is drug-related, while approximately 50 percent of all violent crime is drug-related. Gangs move to other cities to avoid law enforcement pressure in their home areas and to take advantage of the higher profits that drug sales generate outside Chicago. For example, a small faction of the Gangster Disciples from Chicago moved into the Springfield area in the early 1990s and easily made up to $15,000 per day selling between 2 and 10 kilograms of cocaine and approximately 8 kilograms of marijuana per week. The Chicago-based Gangster Disciples taxed the local drug dealing gang members, a situation that resulted in frequent armed confrontations. In a show of force, the Chicago faction once brought more than two dozen Gangster Disciples members to Springfield in the back of a rental truck. Between October 1998 and June 1999, nearly 25 members of the Gangster Disciples were arrested in Springfield through Operation JAGUAR, a local multiagency crackdown on gangs and gang-related drug activity, breaking up the drug operation. Gang migration to other cities within the state and region often follows this same pattern, inevitably bringing violence with it. Cities like Decatur, Peoria, and East St. Louis have experienced similar "turf wars" between local gangs and those relocated from Chicago or St. Louis.

There has been a decrease in gang violence related to drug distribution in the Chicago area. Gang activity in some parts of Chicago has shifted emphasis from protecting the gang and its turf to operating criminal enterprises. Rival gangs are putting aside long-held hostilities for economic benefit and have been observed dealing drugs on the same corner without incident. In 1999, the Gangster Disciples established an alliance with the Vice Lords to distribute drugs in the Chicago area. Members of both gangs now travel freely between their territories without fear of retaliation. Established turfs that existed for years are gone. Profits from drug sales overshadow gang affiliations. Rival gang members keep the peace as long as each gang is making money, believing that big money is more important than gang banging. However, gang violence, including drive-by shootings, remains high in areas outside of Chicago.

Gang Increase Concerns Police

An influx of Gangster Disciples from Chicago, not seen since the mid-1990s, has law enforcement officials in Bloomington and Normal, Illinois, concerned about an escalation of street violence. According to a spokesman for the Bloomington Police Department, "Basically we have a large gang presence here for the purpose of trafficking crack cocaine."

The reason for the gang increase is twofold. Gangs from large urban areas move into new drug markets to take advantage of higher prices, and the Chicago Police Department and other suburban law enforcement agencies have increased their efforts against gangs causing them to seek out new areas of operation. These two factors have led to an increase in gang presence and subsequent violent crime in cities like Bloomington and Normal.

Bloomington Pantagraph, 2 July 2000.

Production

Sentences resulting from federal convictions are lengthier for possessing crack than powdered cocaine, so retail distributors produce crack in the areas where it is to be distributed. Crack is usually produced at stash houses and gang members' homes. The conversion process involves adding baking soda and water to powdered cocaine and then heating the mixture, converting the powder into crack, a crystal-like substance. African-American and Hispanic street gangs convert powdered cocaine into crack.

Chicago is a distribution center for both powdered and crack cocaine destined for areas throughout Illinois and elsewhere in the Great Lakes Region and the Midwest. Most jurisdictions throughout the region report that cocaine is transported into their areas from Chicago.

Transportation

Mexican DTOs transport powdered cocaine for themselves or on behalf of Colombian DTOs. These Colombian DTOs often provide the Mexican groups with portions of the bulk cocaine shipments as payment for transportation and distribution services. Once the cocaine is in the United States it is further distributed to Colombian or Mexican criminal groups in the United States. In 1999, at least 30 Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigations involving large-scale cocaine shipments to Chicago from the Southwest Border were initiated nationwide. Mexican DTOs employ brokers based in Arizona, southern California, and south Texas to transport cocaine from the Southwest Border area to Chicago. These Mexican brokers usually transport bulk cocaine by tractor-trailer from the Southwest Border to the Chicago area, concealing the cocaine in shipments of legitimate goods. Cocaine shipments are typically made in ton quantities and delivered to warehouses in the Chicago area or to farms outside Chicago. The cocaine is broken down into smaller shipments that are stashed in rented houses in the cities and suburbs. The brokers frequently communicate with the leaders of the DTOs and often travel to Chicago to oversee delivery of a shipment. The individuals entrusted to transport the cocaine are usually known to the drug traffickers in Mexico or Colombia, and the money from the transaction in Chicago is returned to Mexico either by the broker or by a designated courier. Compartmentalizing the operation lessens the chance of any one individual having extensive knowledge of the operation. "Shotgunning," sending smaller quantities of cocaine across the Southwest Border in multiple shipments concealed in passenger cars, is popular because it lessens the risk of losing large amounts of cocaine at one time.

The major north-south highways, Interstates 55 and 57, are the primary routes for cocaine

On May 24, 2000, Illinois State Police seized 14 kilograms of cocaine from a male traveling north on I–57 in Effingham County en route to Chicago, Illinois, from Pharr, Texas. The cocaine was discovered in a compartment in the wall of the sleeper compartment of a 1994 Freightliner tractor.

On April 5, 2000, the Nebraska State Police seized approximately 82 kilograms of cocaine from a couple traveling eastbound on I–80 in Hall County. The driver and passenger, both residents of Tucson, Arizona, were en route to Chicago, Illinois, from Tucson in a rented 1999 Ford van bearing Nevada plates. After a drug-detection canine alert, a consensual search of the vehicle led to the discovery of the cocaine inside the seats and quarter panels.

Source: EPIC, Daily Summaries.

shipments from the Southwest Border area into Chicago. Interstate 80 is the primary east-west route along with east-west state highways that are used as supply routes to other areas of the state and region. Large concealed shipments of cocaine are also transported into the Chicago area by overland carriers such as commercial buses, private vehicles, and railcars. Most of these shipments can be traced back to Mexican traffickers in south Texas. With the advent of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the increase in rail traffic associated with it, most railcars entering the United States are not inspected.

Although most cocaine in Chicago is shipped by land, some cocaine is shipped by commercial air carrier. Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and Midway Airport are entry points for cocaine. Several recent USCS seizures from air passengers and cargo in Miami revealed that some of that cocaine was destined for Chicago. On January 1, 2000, USCS inspectors at Miami International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of cocaine from a Chicago resident arriving on a flight from Jamaica. The 48-year-old male had concealed two packages of cocaine around his abdomen. On January 12, 2000, USCS inspectors at Miami International Airport seized 9.1 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo shipment sent from Ecuador and addressed to Cicero, Illinois. The cocaine was hidden around the edges of a tabletop.

Chicago is a distribution center for cocaine destined for areas throughout Illinois and elsewhere in the Great Lakes Region and the Midwest. Most jurisdictions throughout the region report that cocaine shipped into their areas transits through Chicago. The primary means used to transport cocaine throughout the region are private and rental vehicles on the interstate and state highway systems.

Distribution

Wholesale

Mexican DTOs transport powdered cocaine into the Chicago area from the Southwest Border and transfer the cocaine to Mexican and Colombian criminal groups, the largest wholesale distributors of cocaine in Illinois. Associates of the organization formerly controlled by Amado Carrillo-Fuentes, the Miguel Caro-Quintero organization, and others operating along the Southwest Border are the primary suppliers; Chicago-based Mexican criminal groups are the wholesalers of cocaine in Illinois.

The working relationship between midlevel wholesale suppliers and street gangs is growing more sophisticated as illicit drug supplies increase. Hispanic street gangs such as the Latin Kings and Latin Disciples are closely linked to Mexican DTOs such as the Chicago-based Herrera Family. These street gangs provide a major distribution outlet for the Herreras and other Mexican DTOs.

Herrera Drug Trafficking Organization

The Herrera Family is a Mexican DTO based in Durango, Mexico. It has been operating since the mid-1950s as a heroin distribution organization; since the 1980s, it has trafficked in cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine. It works closely with Colombian DTOs to import cocaine into the United States. Chicago is the primary destination for drugs trafficked by the Herrera organization. Law enforcement authorities estimate that the Herrera organization still has at least 12 cells operating in the Chicago area. According to DEA, heroin seizures in Durango, Mexico, in 1999 reveal that the Herrera organization is still involved in heroin trafficking.

Source: NDIC, *The Herrera Organization: Chicago Operations*, December 1996.

Typical Drug Movement in the Chicago Area

- A Mexican national flies into the Chicago area with family and rents a modest house in a quiet working-class neighborhood in the city or the suburbs. (The family normally leaves and does not return.)
- Over the next several months, a small group of criminals from Mexico arrives at the house.
- Mexican DTOs ship drugs from the Southwest Border to Chicago; the drugs are delivered to the house in batches.
- Those in the house receive distribution instructions—for example, how much of the drug to distribute, which drug to put in what vehicle, and when and where to park the vehicle. (Certain aspects of the operation are handled remotely from safe locations in Mexico. Sales negotiated in Mexico often are conducted in shopping center parking lots in the Chicago area; price, quantity, and destination are determined in Mexico.)
- The drugs are delivered to wholesalers, mostly Mexican, often a step or two removed from the street gangs involved in retail sales. (Operations are fast, flexible, and highly compartmentalized.)
- The criminal group returns to Mexico or moves on to a new location. (Similar groups are set up at other locations to accomplish the same operations or to handle the proceeds. Most of the proceeds are packaged and shipped back to Mexico the same way in which the drugs are shipped.)

Source: Chicago HIDTA, *Threat Assessment FY2000.*

Retail

Law enforcement agencies across the state report that gangs dominate the retail drug trade. Gangs survive financially through the distribution and sale of drugs. African-American and Hispanic street gangs control the street-level distribution of crack, their main source of income. There are as many as 125 gangs with approximately 125,000 members located in the greater Chicago area. The five largest street gangs account for 84 percent of gang membership. The Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, Black Disciples, Traveling Vice Lords, and Four Corner Hustlers are the dominant Chicago gangs involved in drug distribution.

Public housing projects and gang-controlled communities on the South and West Sides of the city are the main locations for retail sales of crack by gang members. A Public Safety Analysis done for the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) by a private firm hired by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated that 10,000 CHA tenants have gang affiliations. According to a National Institute of Justice survey of crack users, retail crack purchases in Chicago typically take place outdoors (86.5 percent) and in the drug abuser's own neighborhood (68.5 percent).

Crack sales on the South and West Sides of Chicago take place in a vast open-air drug market dominated by African-American street gangs such as the Gangster Disciples and the Vice Lords. These gangs are highly structured and control all aspects of the drug market. High-level gang members typically purchase kilogram quantities of powdered cocaine from Mexican and

Chicago Police Department Gang Investigations

During 1999, the Chicago Police Department, in cooperation with several federal agencies, shut down four drug dealing operations of the Gangster Disciples, Latin Kings, Four Corner Hustlers, and Vice Lords. The gangs were netting over $100 million per year through these retail drug operations.

Source: Chicago Police Department.

Colombian wholesalers or midlevel suppliers. Gang members then oversee the conversion, packaging, and retail distribution of the crack. The crack is converted in an apartment or house near the retail sales location and packaged in plastic bags containing 100-milligram rocks.

Crack cocaine sales on the West Side are conducted openly on street corners. The typical crack seller, a low-level African-American gang member aged 15 to 20, is easily replaced if arrested. Younger gang members work as runners, either on bicycle or on foot, supplying the sellers from a nearby house or apartment. The main supply of crack and the collected money are usually kept in separate locations. Gangs employ lookouts to warn sellers of law enforcement presence. Lookouts work in shifts and are paid approximately $50 per day. Street-corner sellers usually deal only in crack. Other gang members are available to sell heroin or other drugs in the same block.

Although African-American street gangs dominate retail distribution, other ethnic criminal groups also are involved. For example, in June 2000, federal authorities charged nine men and two women, mostly Vietnamese, with conspiring to distribute cocaine in the Asian community on the city's North Side.

Organized gangs have spread into the Central and Southern Districts of Illinois to establish control of the retail drug trade in downstate cities. They use violence and intimidation to compete for control of drug territories, customers, and supplies. The distribution of drugs by organized gangs is now entrenched in Peoria, Moline, Rock Island, Decatur, and other cities. In Rockford, the second largest city in Illinois, factions of the Gangster Disciples and Vice Lords control drug distribution, and street gangs dominate the retail distribution of drugs in the public housing projects. Retail drug sales in these cities occur at open-air drug markets and at indoor locations such as houses.

The major population center in the Southern District of Illinois is the Metro-East, which is composed of approximately 45 contiguous cities surrounding East St. Louis. The Metro-East is the second largest metropolitan area in Illinois with a population of 600,000. Gang members with connections to St. Louis, Missouri, control drug distribution and sales in the Metro-East area. Street gangs from Chicago and St. Louis dominate crack cocaine sales in Alexander, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison and St. Clair Counties in the Southern District of Illinois. Most of violent crime in the Southern District of Illinois is related to crack cocaine distribution and sales.



Figure 1. Chicago and surrounding areas.

Heroin

The increasing availability and abuse of SEA and SA heroin is a significant problem, particularly in the Chicago area. (See Appendix for responses to the NDIC National Drug Threat Survey 2000.) While most heroin users in Chicago are African American, heroin abuse by young white users is increasing significantly in the Chicago suburbs. Chicago is both a major destination for heroin and a transshipment point for heroin destined for other areas in the Great Lakes Region and the Midwest. Nigerian and Colombian heroin traffickers use couriers aboard commercial aircraft and package services to import heroin into the state. Mexican DTOs transport Mexican heroin into Chicago employing the same methods used to ship other drugs from the Southwest Border. Most retail heroin sales in Chicago take place on the West Side in a vast open-air drug market dominated by African-American street gangs such as the Gangster Disciples and the Vice Lords.

Abuse

Heroin abuse in the Chicago area is a significant problem that has increased over the past decade. The Chicago Police Department reports that heroin abuse is increasing, and it rates heroin as the second greatest drug threat in its jurisdiction. Indicators of heroin abuse, such as treatment admissions and overdoses in Chicago, have been increasing for the past decade, according to CEWG statistics. Increasing numbers of suburban users are contributing to the resurgent popularity of heroin. In 1998, Chicago heroin ED mentions per 100,000 were five times the rate of the total United States. Total DAWN statistics from 1991 to 1998 show a dramatic rise of 288 percent in the rate of heroin ED mentions per 100,000 in Chicago. In 1996, nearly 70 percent of the heroin users in Chicago described themselves as daily users, more than double the number of crack users who admitted daily use.

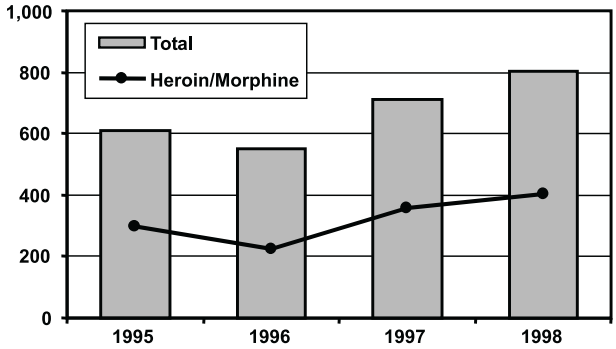
While most heroin users in Chicago are African American, heroin abuse by young white users is increasing significantly in the Chicago area. Between 1997 and 1998, there was a 26 percent increase in heroin ED mentions among Caucasians, a 6 percent increase among African Americans, and a 5 percent increase among Hispanics. Chicago Police Department narcotics officers are arresting more suburban white youth for heroin purchases than in previous years. For example, over the past 2 years police in Naperville, a Chicago suburb, identified and tracked at least 40 high school age heroin users who regularly traveled to Chicago's West Side to purchase heroin. Between 1990 and 1998, the percentage of 15- to 25-year-old arrestees in Chicago testing positive for opiates fell more than 60 percent. While this may seem to contradict reports of increased heroin abuse by youth, it is likely that these new white suburban users have the ability to support their addictions without resorting to stealing or other activities that expose them to the possibility of arrest.

Most heroin abusers in the Chicago area inhale or snort the drug. Prior to the 1990s, Chicago's heroin user population consisted of aging addicts who had injected heroin for many years. New users, typically young, white suburbanites, look down on older "junkies" who inject heroin. Newer heroin users initially snort heroin, although some eventually switch to injection because as tolerance levels increase, users must snort larger doses to achieve the desired effects. New users are less likely to view heroin as dangerous since the junkie stigma is no longer associated with heroin abuse. Heroin use has been glamorized in the fashion and music industries, further softening the attitudes of youth about heroin. Some young people take heroin to offset the effects of club drugs such as MDMA at rave parties. The use of heroin with cocaine (speedballing) has increased in the Chicago area.

Other indicators that point to an increase in heroin abuse include a 60 percent increase in heroin-related deaths in Chicago in 1997 and an

additional 12 percent increase in 1998. (See Chart 3.) Heroin/morphine was listed as the cause in over 50 percent of drug-related deaths in Chicago in 1998.[4] In 1999, Chicago arrestees tested under the ADAM Program had the highest opiate percentage for males (20.1) and females (32.4) in the United States. Data from the last 6 months of 1999 reveal that these numbers rose significantly and are approaching the highest rate of heroin abuse mentions per 100,000 recorded in the United States since ADAM data have been collected.

Chart 3. Chicago DAWN Drug Abuse Deaths



Source: DAWN *Annual Medical Examiner Data, 1998.*

Availability

The heroin market in Chicago has undergone a significant transformation over the past 15 years. A major change in the type and quantity of heroin in Chicago took place in 1985 following DEA's Operation Durango, which targeted the Herrera organization's drug operations. The Herrera organization supplied virtually the entire Chicago heroin market with Mexican brown powdered and black tar heroin. The success of Operation Durango limited the availability of Mexican heroin and opened a window of opportunity for Nigerians to smuggle SEA heroin into Chicago. Nigerians had readily available supplies of heroin from sources in Thailand and other areas of Southeast Asia. SEA heroin dominated the Chicago market until the introduction of SA heroin from Colombia in 1992. In 1999, DEA's Domestic Monitor Program (DMP), a retail-level heroin purchase program that identifies purity, price, and source of origin, revealed that the retail supplies of SA heroin are increasing. Of the 40 exhibits purchased in FY1999, 13 were identified as SA heroin, 6 as SEA heroin, and 1 as Southwest Asian (SWA) heroin. The remaining samples were not identifiable.

The availability of less expensive, higher purity white heroin from Southeast Asia and South America (primarily Colombia), led to increased abuse over the past decade, particularly in the Chicago area. Prices for a milligram of pure heroin in Chicago are at their lowest level in a decade. See Table 4 on page 18 for current prices in Chicago. Higher purity heroin allows users to effectively smoke or snort the drug rather than inject it. Heroin purity at the retail level in Chicago rose from 2–4 percent in the early 1980s to an average of 25–30 percent since 1995. Additionally, heroin abuse is increasing not only in low-income urban areas, but also in the more affluent suburbs and especially among teenagers.

The amount of heroin seized by law enforcement agencies validates the high level of availability in Illinois. Heroin seizures by state and local law enforcement agencies greatly increased since 1995. In FY1998, the FDSS reported 36.5 kilograms of heroin seized in Illinois, up from 27.8 kilograms seized in FY1997. Seizures by the Chicago Police Department continue to increase; the amount of white heroin seized in 1999 was nearly three times the amount seized in

White Heroin

White heroin refers to any heroin that is white, off-white, or tan in color. Many law enforcement agencies do not conduct the chemical tests that are required to identify the source country.

4. A heroin/morphine-related death is one in which the Medical Examiner has concluded that heroin/morphine use contributed to the death, but was not its sole cause.

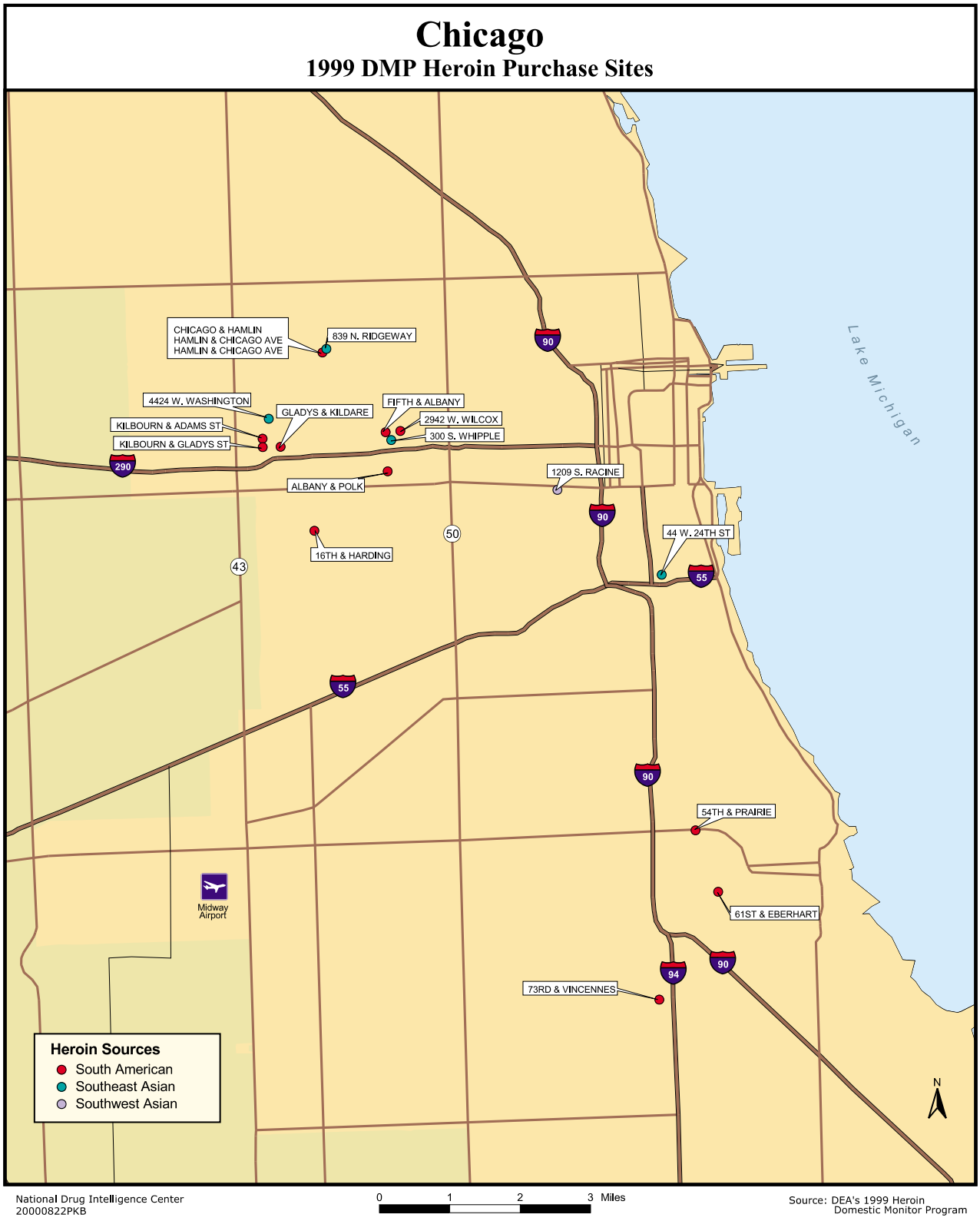


Figure 2. DEA 1999 DMP purchase sites. In 1999, there were 40 DMP purchases in the Chicago area. A source was determined for 20 samples. Of the 20 samples, 13 were found to be South American in origin, 6 were found to be Southeast Asian in origin, and 1 was found to be Southwest Asian in origin. (Note: Only those samples within the Chicago city limits are depicted here.)

1998. Illinois State Police statistics for 1999 show that 98 percent of the total heroin seized in Illinois was in Cook County.

Reports from DEA and the Chicago Police Department early in 2000 reveal that SA heroin availability is increasing. The results of the DEA's DMP for FY1999 indicate that half of the identifiable heroin exhibits were of South American origin. The average purity of these heroin exhibits was 33.8 percent. The Chicago Police Department also reports an increase in the availability of SA heroin and lists the primary transporters of all heroin into Chicago as Colombian, Nigerian, and Mexican criminal groups in order of priority. Although all types of heroin (SEA, SA, Mexican brown powdered and black tar, and SWA) are reportedly available, user preference has shifted from Mexican brown powdered heroin to higher purity white heroin. Although heroin availability currently is concentrated in Chicago and its suburbs, reports indicate that availability is rising in surrounding counties as well. Heroin is only rarely available in other parts of the state. When available, it is most often white heroin.

Chicago is a hub for Nigerian heroin trafficking activity in the United States. Nigerians deal primarily in SEA heroin; they also deal in SWA heroin, although to a lesser extent. Before the recent increase in SA heroin availability, Nigerians controlled the heroin market in the Chicago area.

Table 4. Heroin Prices, Chicago, 2000

Amount	White Heroin	Mexican Brown Powder	Mexican Black Tar
Gram	$100–$125	$100	$100–$200
Ounce	$2,500–$3,000	$3,000	$2,500–$4,000
Kilogram	$120,000–$140,000*	$27,000–$32,000	$95,000–$100,000

Source: DEA Chicago Field Division, *Trends in the Traffic 2d Quarter FY2000*.

*Actual street prices are between $60,000 and $80,000.

Violence

Most federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in Illinois cite violent crime associated with gang-related drug trafficking activity as the most serious criminal threat to the state. Gangs are the primary street-level distributors of heroin and other drugs in Illinois. Gang migration from Chicago to other urban areas and to suburban and rural areas has increased the availability of drugs, and consequently the associated violent criminal activity in these areas.

Most retail heroin sales in Chicago take place on the West Side where buyers are able to purchase heroin in gang-controlled areas without fear for their personal safety. Gangs such as the Gangster Disciples and Vice Lords have established alliances, putting profits ahead of rivalries. Gang members who sell heroin on street corners provide security to ensure that buyers return to their locations on a regular basis. Drug sale areas, particularly on the West Side of Chicago, are well defined, resulting in few turf wars. Hispanic sections on the North Side, where these gang arrangements do not exist, are more susceptible to drug turf wars associated with heroin and other drug sales.

Crime associated with heroin abusers is fueled in part by the large numbers who describe themselves as daily users. In a National Institute of Justice survey of heroin users in six major cities, 70 percent of Chicago heroin addicts surveyed described themselves as daily users. Chicago drug abusers had the highest reported rate of participation (24 percent) in illegal activities to pay for drugs.

Production

Opium is not cultivated in Illinois nor is heroin produced. Heroin producers in Mexico are changing their product to meet the demand for higher purity heroin that has developed in Chicago's heroin market. A growing category of young, white, suburban heroin users in the Chicago area prefer higher purity white heroin over Mexican brown powdered or black tar heroin. DEA reports indicate that Colombian chemists have worked with Mexican DTOs to produce limited amounts of Mexican white heroin destined for Chicago.

Transportation

Chicago is a major destination as well as a transshipment point for various types of heroin. Responses to the NDIC National Drug Threat Survey 2000 demonstrate that states within the region cite Chicago as the distribution center for the heroin sold in their jurisdictions.

Heroin Smugglers Use Infants

A suburban Chicago man was sentenced in August 2000 for recruiting at least nine young mothers to work as heroin and cocaine couriers traveling from Panama and Jamaica to Chicago. The drugs were concealed in cans of baby formula or in capsules ingested by the women. The women were instructed to travel with their infant children to minimize law enforcement scrutiny as they traveled.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*, 9 August 2000.

Airports remain the prevalent seizure points for heroin smuggled into the United States. More than half of all heroin seized is confiscated from couriers on commercial aircraft—carrying the heroin internally, on their persons, or in their luggage. Colombian heroin trafficking groups that smuggle SA heroin into the Chicago area use couriers who ingest pellets of the drug. These couriers often travel on flights that connect through Miami.

Nigerian groups trafficking in SEA heroin are sophisticated; they are modifying transportation routes and methods of concealment. Nigerians typically have used air passenger couriers who ingested balloons filled with heroin, boarded flights originating in international locations such as Bangkok, Thailand, and entered the United States at airports in Chicago, New York, or other major cities. When they are used, Nigerian-employed couriers now arrive at international airports in midsize U.S. cities where there are fewer USCS officials. However, Nigerian trafficking groups appear to be shifting from employing air passenger couriers to using parcel packages for transportation. Seizure data also indicate that traffickers are increasingly using the mail and parcel package services to transport heroin into Chicago.

Mexican DTOs transport Mexican heroin to Chicago employing the same methods used to ship cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. Mexican heroin is smuggled into the United States primarily through ports of entry along the Southwest Border via body carriers (1–2 kilograms) or private vehicles (2–5 kilograms). Colombian criminals are collaborating with Mexican criminals who act as transportation specialists and are employing Mexican body carriers to smuggle SA heroin into the United States across the Southwest Border. According to DEA, heroin seizures in Durango, Mexico, in 1999 reveal that the Herrera DTO is still involved in the heroin trade.

Distribution

Wholesale

Chicago serves as the primary distribution hub for the four principal types of heroin (SEA, SA, Mexican brown powdered and black tar, and SWA) in the Great Lakes Region. Heroin in the Central District of Illinois is distributed primarily from Chicago and secondarily from St. Louis. Reports from DEA offices in the Great Lakes Region, as well as from cities outside the region such as St. Louis and Atlanta, pinpoint Chicago as a major distribution center for heroin in their jurisdictions. Responses to the National Drug Threat Survey 2000 also demonstrate that states within the region point to Chicago as the distribution center for heroin transported into their jurisdictions.

Nigerian heroin smugglers typically sell to Nigerian wholesalers, who in turn sell to high-level members of major African-American street gangs such as the Gangster Disciples and Vice Lords for retail distribution. Nigerian criminal groups are responsible for wholesale distribution of most of the SEA heroin shipped into Chicago. SEA heroin, which is 80–90 percent pure, is being sold between Nigerian traffickers for $80,000–$110,00 per kilogram. Wholesalers in Chicago usually sell heroin without cutting it to minimize their handling of the product and their exposure to law enforcement.

The relationship between Nigerians and African-American gangs is an important aspect of the heroin trade in Chicago. The children of Nigerian-born wholesalers are now acting as intermediaries with street gangs in order to bridge the generation gap. These second-generation offspring in their early to mid-20s are in charge of negotiating wholesale drug deals between their parents, family, or tribal members and the street gang placing the order. The business relationship between these Nigerian children and the gangs is further reinforced through social bonds such as Nigerian males dating female gang members. High-level gang members or affiliates are not purchasing heroin only from Nigerian heroin wholesalers in Chicago; they are now recruiting couriers and taking receipt of heroin in Southeast Asia for both wholesale and retail distribution in Chicago. In many cases, Nigerian criminal groups have assumed the role of heroin brokers for the Chicago street gangs to further insulate themselves from law enforcement.

Colombian DTOs are increasing the SA heroin supply in the Chicago area. SA heroin, like SEA heroin, has a high purity level. SA heroin is between 80 and 95 percent pure at the wholesale level and is cut to a purity of 30–60 percent at the street level. The introduction and increased availability of SA heroin caused Nigerian wholesalers to lower the price of SEA heroin in order to remain competitive. The price of white heroin has dropped from approximately $140,000 per kilogram to $60,000–$80,000 per kilogram over the past 5 years.

Mexican DTOs distribute Mexican brown powdered and, to a lesser extent, black tar heroin in Chicago. The Mexican DTOs are undercutting SA and SEA heroin prices in Chicago and other cities in an attempt to increase their market share with high purity (60–85 percent) Mexican heroin. Mexican black tar heroin purchased in southern California for $16,000 to $40,000 per kilogram can be resold in Chicago for several times that amount and still undercut the price of both SEA and SA heroin. Operation Tar Pit, a 2-year investigation of the Oscar Hernandez DTO based in Nayarit, Mexico, culminated in more than 200 arrests in June 2000. This DTO distributed about 36 kilograms of Mexican heroin per month—9 kilograms of black tar and 27 kilograms of brown powdered heroin—across the United States to Chicago and more than 20 other cities. Distribution was managed from a central cell located in Los Angeles. Couriers were primarily young females who body carried up to a kilogram of

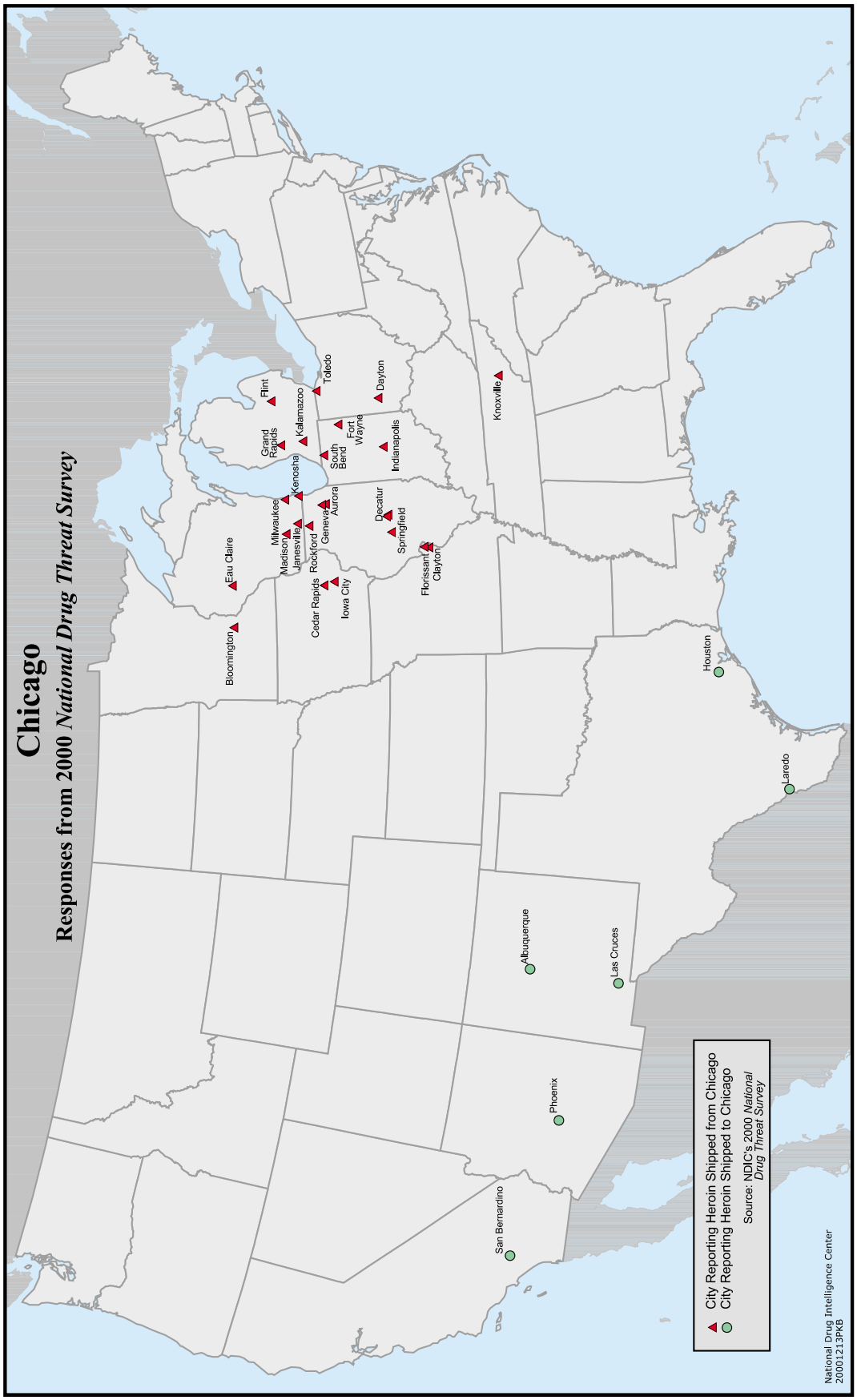


Figure 3. Cities that reported Chicago as a heroin distribution center or destination.

heroin aboard commercial airlines and buses. Parcel package services were also used to ship the heroin across the United States. This DTO, composed almost entirely of illegal aliens, is believed to be typical of Mexican heroin trafficking organizations: it was structured vertically, organized on family ties, and communicated in Spanish.

Retail

Most retail heroin sales in Chicago take place on the West Side in a vast open-air drug market dominated by African-American street gangs such as the Gangster Disciples and the Vice Lords. These gangs are highly organized and control all aspects of the drug market. High-level gang members typically purchase uncut SEA heroin from Nigerian wholesalers in 100-gram to 1-kilogram quantities. Nigerian wholesalers use Nigerian taxicab drivers to deliver the heroin from the Broadway and Clark area on the North Side to the West Side. Gang members oversee the cutting, packaging, and retail distribution of the heroin. The heroin is cut with laxatives or baby powder to approximately 25 to 35 percent purity in a West Side apartment or house and then packaged in small squares of aluminum foil.

Heroin sales on the West Side are conducted openly on street corners. Single doses of approximately 100 milligrams are sold in unmarked aluminum foil squares or rectangles for $10 each. Occasionally the foil squares are placed in plastic bags in case they need to be secreted in the seller's mouth or other body orifice. At least half of the heroin sales on the West Side are made to white suburban users who drive into West Side neighborhoods to purchase $100 to $150 worth of heroin. They purchase heroin for personal use and may supply friends at cost or slightly above cost to support their own habit. Many of these sales occur on the West Side near off ramps of the Eisenhower Expressway and other major arteries to allow easy access for heroin users from the suburbs.

Security is an important aspect of the retail heroin trade. Heroin dealers want their customers to return and therefore protect their customers. Customers purchase at the same locations on a regular basis to ensure that they receive a quality product.

The typical retail heroin seller on the West Side of Chicago is a 15- to 20-year-old African-American male gang member. These low-level gang members can easily be replaced if arrested. Sellers are usually supplied with a "pack" of heroin consisting of 11 doses of heroin packaged in approximately 100-milligram quantities in aluminum foil squares. Sellers must return the proceeds from 10 sales and can pocket the money received from the other dose as a sales commission. Younger gang members, on bicycles or on foot, act as runners to supply sellers from a nearby house or apartment. The main supply of heroin and the collected money are usually kept in separate locations. Gangs employ lookouts to warn sellers of law enforcement presence. Lookouts work in shifts and are paid approximately $50 per day. Street corner heroin sellers usually deal only in heroin; other gang members sell crack or other drugs in the same block.

Heroin sales on the West Side occur at all hours of the day but peak during the morning and evening rush hours and during the lunch hour. A growing percentage of heroin abusers are white, middle-class employees and students who make their purchases during these hours. During peak periods, crowds of 100 or more gather to make heroin purchases. Gang members line up customers in rows of 4 and routinely search them for pagers, cell phones, and badges. Once gang members establish order and "clear" the customers, the heroin sales are made.

According to a 1996 National Institute of Justice survey of heroin users, retail heroin purchases in Chicago typically take place outdoors (91.8 percent) and in the drug abuser's own neighborhood (65.6 percent). Hispanic street gangs are primarily responsible for retail distribu-

tion of Mexican brown powdered and black tar heroin in the Hispanic communities on the North Side of Chicago. Sales typically take place in areas such as Humboldt Park where users typically are older addicts who prefer Mexican heroin. Transactions usually take place early in the morning as gang members drive through the park and make deliveries. Heroin can also be purchased in open-air drug markets on the South Side of Chicago, but sellers are more cautious about their customers. Heroin and other drugs are also sold at many bars throughout the Chicago area. Customers must have a contact in these establishments in order to make a purchase. Independent heroin dealers can be found in the various ethnic communities in the Chicago area. For example, Asian criminal groups sell heroin at the retail level within their communities. These dealers typically transact their business via pagers and cell phones, and delivery normally takes place in a public area.

Marijuana

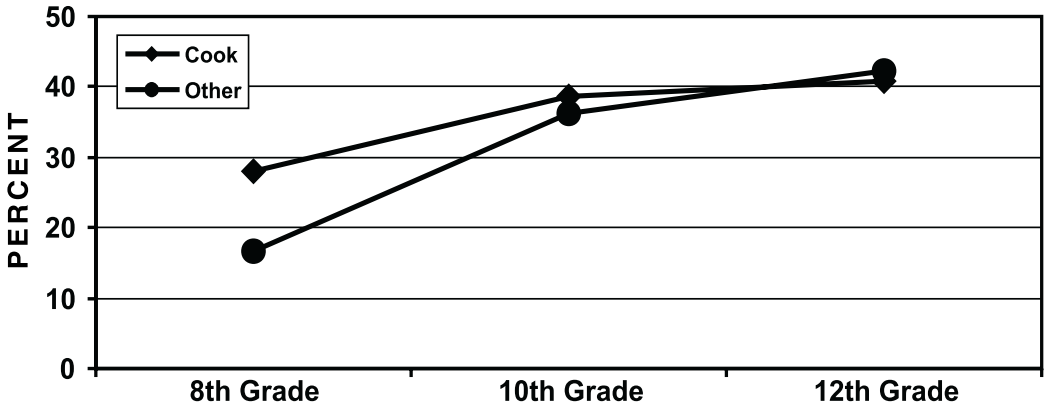
Marijuana remains the most readily available and most abused drug in Illinois. (See Appendix for responses to the NDIC National Drug Threat Survey 2000.) Abuse by young people has increased dramatically since the early 1990s. Shipments of marijuana ranging from multikilogram to metric ton quantities are transported to Illinois from the Southwest Border area on a regular basis by Mexican DTOs. Chicago is both a major destination for Mexican-produced marijuana and a transshipment point to other areas in the Great Lakes Region and the Midwest. The rural areas of Illinois provide an adequate environment for the domestic cultivation of cannabis.

Abuse

Marijuana remains the most widely available and abused drug in Illinois. Marijuana abuse spans a wide spectrum of age, racial, and socioeconomic groups. Marijuana abuse by young people increased dramatically since the early 1990s. Over the past 10 years, marijuana abuse by eighth-grade students tripled. In 1998, more than 21 percent of all eighth-grade students, 37 percent of all tenth-grade students, and nearly 42 percent of all twelfth-grade students in Illinois reported using marijuana in the past year. (See Chart 4.) Marijuana abuse by Illinois students varies demographically. Eighth graders outside Cook County show significantly lower rates of marijuana abuse than eighth graders in Cook County, although this difference becomes negligible when students reach the tenth and twelfth grades.

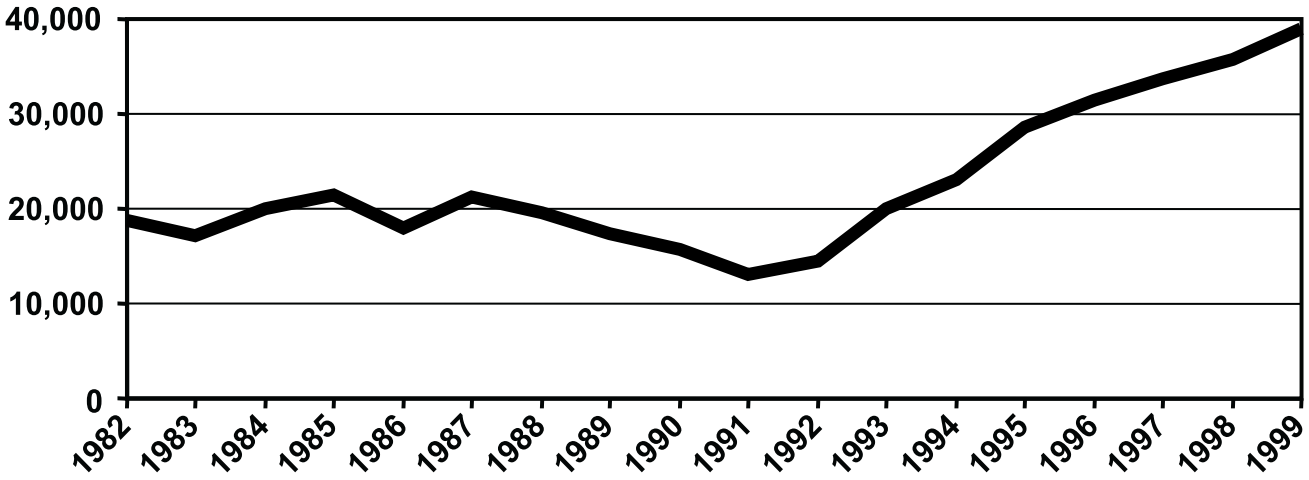
The high levels of marijuana abuse by students have detrimental consequences for the educational system in Illinois. A 6-year study completed in 1999 may indicate a correlation between marijuana use and school performance. In that study, 49 students in one high school who either possessed or were under the influence of marijuana during the school day were monitored. All students involved had serious attendance problems, were significantly behind their peers in academic progress, and were characterized by their teachers as apathetic and unmotivated. Each of these students also had serious disciplinary problems at school and negatively influenced their peers.

Chart 4. Percentage of Students using Marijuana in Past Year
Cook County vs. Other Counties, 1998



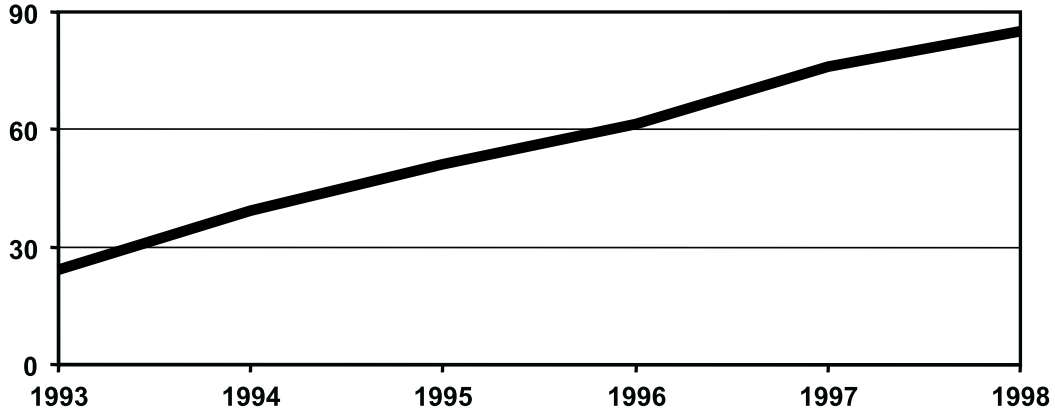
Source: Illinois Department of Human Services, *Youth Study on Substance Abuse: Comparing the 1995, 1997, and 1998 Results*, Chestnut Health Systems, November 1999.

Chart 5. Illinois Marijuana Arrests



Source: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Chart 6. CEWG Chicago Marijuana Mentions per 100,000



Source: CEWG, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Advanced Report*, December 1999.

Arrest statistics provide additional evidence that marijuana abuse has increased in Illinois. Marijuana arrests statewide have more than doubled over the past 10 years. (See Chart 5.) The percentage of male arrestees testing positive for marijuana from Chicago also rose significantly from the early 1990s. Marijuana offenses have consistently accounted for 75 percent of drug arrests in rural Illinois counties since the 1970s.

The high levels of marijuana abuse in Illinois are also confirmed in hospital ED mentions for marijuana over the past 10 years. CEWG reports show that marijuana abuse in Chicago continues to increase, evidenced by one of the nation's highest rates of marijuana ED mentions. (See Chart 6.) While ED mentions for marijuana rose 44 percent nationwide from 1988 to 1998, they increased over 300 percent in Chicago.

Marijuana is often used in association with other drugs. Law enforcement officials report an increase in the popularity of smoking blunts, a marijuana-packed cigar. Some users lace marijuana blunts with crack or PCP (phencyclidine).

A blunt is a cigar packed with marijuana. Users remove the tobacco on the inside of the cigar and replace it with marijuana in an attempt to disguise the smoking of marijuana in public.

Marijuana abuse results in economic costs to society. According to research funded through the Illinois Department of Human Services, the adverse economic impact of marijuana abuse is corroborated by a number of facts. Marijuana users have 55 percent more industrial accidents than nonusers, 85 percent more injuries at work, and 78 percent more absenteeism. Furthermore, drug users have medical costs that are 300 percent higher than nonusers, and they are five times more likely to file a claim under worker's compensation benefits.

Availability

Marijuana is the most readily available drug in Illinois. Marijuana seizures by state and local law enforcement agencies have increased over the past 10 years. Seizures by federal law enforcement have also increased over the past 10 years. In FY1999, the FDSS reported 5,635 kilograms of marijuana seized in Illinois, up from 1,171 kilograms seized in FY1997 and 4,767 kilograms seized in FY1998.

Quantities ranging from multikilograms to metric tons are transported regularly to Illinois from the Southwest Border area. Through Operation Valkyrie, the Illinois State Police highway interdiction effort, officials seized more than 5,900 kilograms of marijuana in 1998 and more than 45,000 kilograms since 1990, an achievement unequaled among non-Southwest Border states.

Commercial-grade marijuana produced in Mexico is the most widely available type in Illinois. Mexican-produced marijuana is relatively inexpensive because of its low tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content (average 3.3 percent). Domestically cultivated cannabis plants, particularly indoor grown cannabis, produce a highly potent, more marketable marijuana that is available at a higher price, but in much smaller quantities. Marijuana prices in Illinois have remained relatively constant over the past decade. (See Table 5.)

Table 5. Marijuana Prices, Chicago, 2000

Amount	Commercial Grades	Higher Grades
Gram	$3–$5	$7–$10
Ounce	$50–$75	$200–$500
Pound	$900–$1,200	$2,500–$4,000

Source: DEA Chicago Field Division, *Trends in the Traffic 2d Quarter FY2000*.

Violence

While marijuana abuse is not normally tied directly to violent behavior, ADAM statistics for Chicago reveal that over 40 percent of males arrested for violent crimes in 1999 tested positive for marijuana.

Domestic cannabis growers are often heavily armed and commonly use booby traps and warning devices to protect their cultivation sites from law enforcement authorities and the public. The U.S. Forest Service reports that visitors to public lands may be endangered by the presence of cannabis cultivation sites, which routinely are booby-trapped with explosives, trip-wire firing devices, hanging fishhooks, and punji stakes buried around the cannabis plots. The number of weapons seized during cannabis eradication program operations nationwide more than doubled over the past decade.

Production

Illinois provides an adequate environment for cannabis cultivation. Despite a limited growing season, the fertile soil and large, sparsely populated rural areas of Illinois attract cannabis growers. Cannabis is intermixed with corn and soybean crops, making it visible only from the air. In addition, horticultural techniques found on the Internet and in magazines are triggering an increase in the number of indoor cannabis grows. For example, the Alton Police Department reports that it seized plants from 8 to 10 indoor cannabis cultivation operations during 1999. The average indoor grow contained 25–50 plants, but some contained as many as 250 plants.

DEA has an aggressive Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in Illinois, which consistently ranks among the top 10 states in the country in the number of plants and plots of cannabis that are eradicated each year. See Table 6 for the latest available seizure data.

Table 6. Cannabis Seizures, Illinois, 1998

Outdoor Operations	
Plots eradicated	278
Cultivated plants eradicated	4,225
Ditchweed plants eradicated*	1,350,571
Indoor Operations	
Grows seized	80
Plants eradicated	3,310
Totals	
Total plants eradicated	**1,358,106**
Number of arrests	**143**
Number of weapons seized	**101**

***Ditchweed is a term used to describe extremely low quality marijuana that grows wild in many parts of the United States. This type of marijuana is rarely harvested for use.

Source: DEA, *1998 Domestic Cannabis Eradication and Suppression Program Repor*t, March 1999.

Transportation

Mexican DTOs smuggle most of the marijuana in Illinois from Mexico through the Southwest Border area. In 1999, at least 20 OCDETF investigations involving large-scale marijuana shipments to Chicago from the Southwest Border were initiated nationwide. Seven of the fifteen largest marijuana seizures reported through El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) Operation Pipeline/Convoy data for 1999 were shipments destined for Illinois from Texas. These seizures totaled over 13,000 kilograms of marijuana. Operation Valkyrie, as well as other Operation Pipeline seizures, indicates that the Chicago area remains a major hub for the large-scale distribution of Mexican marijuana.

Mexican DTOs have traditionally transported bulk marijuana shipments concealed with legitimate goods in tractor-trailers into the Chicago area from the Southwest Border. A review of EPIC reports of 1999 seizures of marijuana shipments destined for Chicago reveal that shipments

> The three largest seizures of marijuana reported nationwide through EPIC Pipeline/Convoy data in 1999 were shipments destined for Illinois from Texas. Two of these marijuana seizures (2,992 and 2,607 kilograms) were made in Greene County, Missouri. The third seizure (2,660 kilograms) was made in Cook County, Illinois.
>
> Source: EPIC, Pipeline/Convoy Data 1999.

Authorities arrested eight Mexican nationals in connection with a drug ring that smuggled marijuana in bags of charcoal through Laredo to Chicago. USCS and DEA agents and local police seized more than 5,800 pounds (2,630 kilograms) of marijuana, estimated to be worth about $6 million, in Chicago and at an immigration checkpoint in Laredo. According to a USCS agent in Chicago, "In recent years, we've seen smaller loads of marijuana, between 30 and 300 pounds, cross the Southwest Border, which are then consolidated with other small loads on the U.S. side. This case is significant in that we had over 5,800 pounds of marijuana crossing the Southwest Border and heading nonstop to the West Side of Chicago."

Source: *Associated Press*, 12 August 2000.

have been intermixed with legitimate goods ranging from furniture to ignition coils to polyvinyl chloride. "Shotgunning" of multiple shipments of smaller quantities of marijuana concealed in passenger cars is becoming more popular because it lessens the risk of losing very large shipments to law enforcement. According to USCS officials in Chicago, it is becoming more common for smaller shipments of marijuana to be smuggled across the Southwest Border and later consolidated into larger shipments destined for Chicago.

Large shipments of marijuana from south Texas are transported into the Chicago area via overland carriers such as railcars, commercial buses, motor homes, recreational vehicles, and other private vehicles. Chicago is also a transshipment point for Mexican-produced marijuana destined for other areas within the state and throughout the region. Smaller quantities of marijuana are shipped into the state by mail and package delivery services.

Following a drug-detection canine alert, Illinois State Police seized 1,950 kilograms of marijuana discovered in an Illinois-licensed 1989 utility trailer being towed by an Oklahoma-licensed 1999 Mack tractor parked at a truck stop in Will County, Illinois. The marijuana bundles, wrapped in various types of tape, were commingled with a shipment of roofing paper and hay bales. Officers also seized $25,000 in cash. The marijuana was en route to Chicago, Illinois, from McAllen, Texas. The driver, a 42-year-old male resident of Odessa, Texas, was arrested.

Source: EPIC, Daily Summaries, 14 June 2000.

Distribution

Wholesale

The primary wholesalers of marijuana in Chicago are the same Mexican DTOs who supply most of the cocaine and Mexican heroin in the Chicago area. Mexican trafficking cells operating in the Chicago area are often composed of extended family members of associates or organization members in Mexico. These family connections and associations provide the means for DTOs in Mexico to establish small branches of their organizations, or cells, in the Chicago area to facilitate the wholesale distribution of marijuana. Numerous other groups with connections to these Mexican DTOs are responsible for wholesale marijuana distribution in Illinois. Marijuana is sold at the

wholesale level in quantities ranging from several hundred kilograms to a metric ton.

Mexican criminal groups own and operate a variety of businesses to facilitate drug sales and other criminal activities. These businesses serve dual purposes. Businesses such as restaurants, bars, supermarkets, bakeries, and automobile detail shops provide opportunities for shipping and receiving drugs and currency along with legitimate supplies. In addition, automobile detail shops can be used to construct concealed compartments to hide drugs in cars and other vehicles. The second purpose of these businesses is to serve as fronts for laundering the proceeds of drug sales. Restaurants, bars, and other businesses that deal mainly in cash are particularly suited for laundering money.

Three Men Sentenced for Marijuana Possession

Three suburban Chicago men were sentenced on May 31, 2000, for marijuana possession. In 1998, police found over 180 kilograms of marijuana, scales, and packaging materials at their residence in Carol Stream, just west of Chicago. Investigators believe that the men were Mexican nationals preparing marijuana for delivery to Chicago-area street gangs for retail distribution. Although the men claimed to live in the house, police believe that they were laborers who lived in different places around the country and that they were paid approximately $250 per week for packaging the drugs.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*, 1 June 2000.

Retail

Law enforcement agencies across the state report that gangs dominate the retail drug trade. These gangs survive financially through the distribution and sale of drugs. Street gangs typically sell marijuana and other drugs in low-income areas such as public housing projects in the Chicago area. African-American and Hispanic street gangs are the primary street-level distributors of marijuana. Gang members who sell drugs on the street corners are often teenagers or younger.

Street gangs are the major retailers of marijuana, but outlaw motorcycle gangs and ethnic criminal groups also distribute marijuana at the street level, usually within their own communities. Sales by these groups take place on street corners, from vehicles, in dope houses, in bars, and in other public places. Law enforcement officials across Illinois report that marijuana is available from a variety of sources at the retail level; it is packaged in small plastic bags and sold for $20 or more.

Gang Members Involved in Marijuana Network

Three Mexican nationals, brothers and leaders of the Ambrose street gang in Aurora, Illinois, were sentenced for their participation in a major marijuana distribution network. The brothers transported marijuana from Mexico and the southwestern United States to Aurora by courier. They conducted retail sales of the marijuana through members of the street gang; the gang also provided security and obtained weapons for the group. To further insulate themselves, the brothers used gang members to purchase money orders and to wire proceeds of their marijuana sales to Arizona and Mexico.

Source: *Copley News Service*, 2 July 2000.

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine production and abuse are spreading to rural areas in the Southern and Central Districts of Illinois from bordering states such as Missouri, Iowa, and Indiana. Methamphetamine is growing in popularity because it has a lower cost and longer euphoric effect than crack cocaine. Methamphetamine abuse is not common in the Chicago area. Methamphetamine production is a serious safety and environmental concern in Illinois. (See Appendix for responses to the NDIC National Drug Threat Survey 2000.) Mexican DTOs transport methamphetamine into Illinois from California and other Southwest Border states.

Abuse

Methamphetamine abuse is increasing throughout rural areas of Illinois. Law enforcement agencies in the Central and Southern Districts of Illinois report that methamphetamine abuse is on the rise. Methamphetamine abuse is highest in the Central and Southern Districts of the state, according to the Illinois OASA. Methamphetamine's lower cost and longer euphoric effect have attracted some crack users, adding to the user population. Young people, also attracted to the drug's euphoric effects, are increasingly using methamphetamine at rave parties.

Methamphetamine abuse is not common in the Chicago area. Indicators for Chicago showed no substantial increases in the availability and abuse of methamphetamine through the beginning of 2000. Chicago area law enforcement believes that the relative scarcity of methamphetamine in the area is a result of the abundance of cocaine. Methamphetamine may not have affected Chicago drug markets severely because African-American street gangs are more entrenched in the crack markets in their communities. Only two small pockets of methamphetamine abusers have been identified in the Chicago area since 1998, one on the North Side and the other near the Indiana state line.

Availability

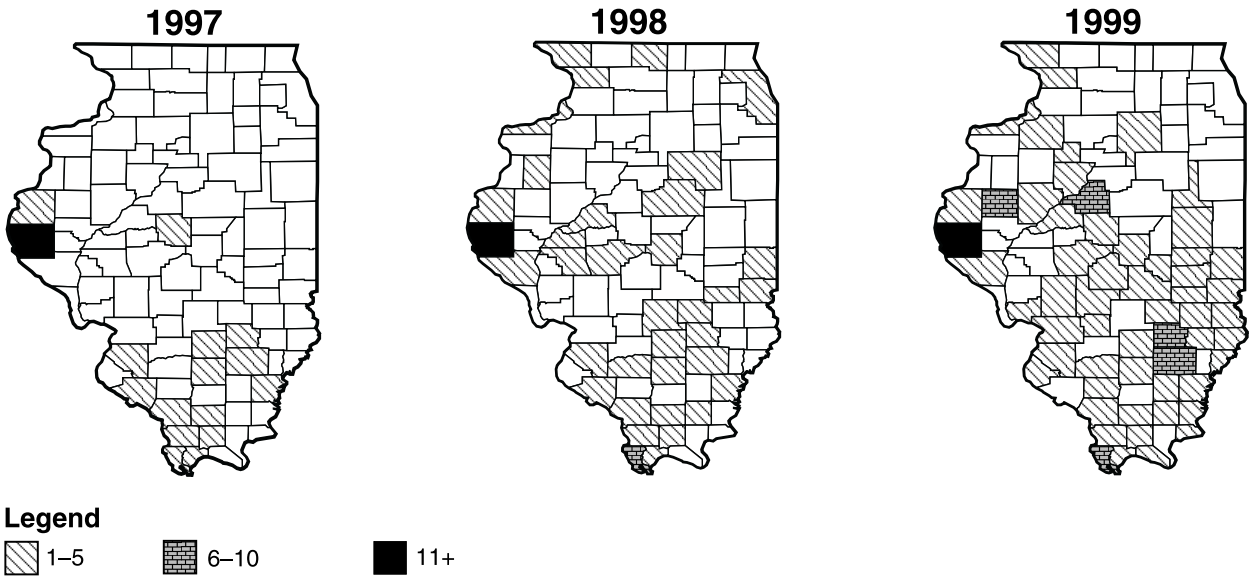
Methamphetamine availability and production are increasing in Illinois. Methamphetamine now poses the primary drug threat in the rural areas of the state and is the second most serious threat after crack in urban areas of central Illinois. The rate of increase in the number of methamphetamine laboratories in Illinois parallels previous increases in other states in the region. The number of laboratory seizures in these other states has increased significantly. Illinois State Police statistics for the third quarter of 1999 reveal that there were 77 methamphetamine encounters in 41 Illinois counties, a 208 percent increase from the third quarter of 1998 when 25 encounters were reported in 5 counties. Encounters

Missouri Men Arrested with Methamphetamine Precursors

Two Poplar Bluff, Missouri, men were arrested for possession of methamphetamine production equipment in the southern Illinois town of Harrisburg. Found in their possession was material used to produce methamphetamine, including a propane torch, latex gloves, batteries, crushed ephedrine, and drain cleaner. The men were first observed near an anhydrous ammonia storage tank.

Source: *The Daily Register*, 18 May 2000.

Illinois Methamphetamine Encounters



Source: Illinois State Police.

are defined as abandoned or active methamphetamine laboratories, anhydrous ammonia thefts, dealer arrests, and methamphetamine purchases or seizures. The Illinois State Police expect to seize more than 400 methamphetamine laboratories in 2000, nearly double the number seized in 1999. This increase is due, in part, to law enforcement agencies from Missouri and Iowa aggressively pursuing methamphetamine cookers through targeted legislation, prompting them to relocate.

Some urban areas such as Rockford, which is supplied by small laboratory operators in western Illinois, report increased availability of methamphetamine. Methamphetamine abuse is rising in areas surrounding Chicago, where Mexican criminal groups are transporting methamphetamine along with other drugs. With the exception of Chicago and the Metro-East area where Mexican-produced methamphetamine predominates, the methamphetamine available to the rest of Illinois is produced in small laboratories in the state.

According to DEA, methamphetamine prices in Chicago range from $7,300 to $10,000 per pound (see Table 7), considerably less than the $20,000 average in the East and Midwest.

Table 7. Methamphetamine Prices, Chicago, 2000

Amount	Cost
Gram	$80–$100
Ounce	$1,000–$1,300
Pound	$7,300–$10,000

Source: DEA Chicago Field Division, *Trends in the Traffic, 2d Quarter FY2000.*

Violence

The potential for violence associated with methamphetamine is significant. Individuals addicted to methamphetamine are unpredictable and will go to great lengths to obtain the drug. Methamphetamine users experience feelings of paranoia, fright, and confusion, and as a result, may become violent. Methamphetamine users are often paranoid and delusional and frequently arm

themselves against perceived threats. They may become violent without provocation. In 1998, two men in Albion, Illinois, who were high from a nonstop, 1-week binge on methamphetamine, went on a shooting spree that left five people dead in two states. The victims included a Mennonite farmer, shot as he worked in his fields, and a mother of four, killed after they hijacked her car.

Production

Most methamphetamine is produced in high-volume clandestine laboratories in Mexico and in California. Smaller laboratories, already established in surrounding states, are emerging in Illinois. Although it is not very common in northern Illinois, most methamphetamine in the area is shipped from California, Missouri, and Iowa.

Law enforcement agencies in the Southern and Central Districts report that the production of methamphetamine is increasing in rural and residential areas of Illinois. Laboratory operators are primarily lower- and middle-income Caucasians who function independently and produce relatively small quantities of methamphetamine. In response to the growing methamphetamine problem, four major Illinois state laws regarding methamphetamine possession, manufacturing, and precursor chemicals went into effect in January 2000.

Increased thefts of the fertilizer anhydrous ammonia point to an increase in methamphetamine production in the Central and Southern Districts. Most of the methamphetamine laboratories seized in Illinois involve the Nazi production method. Anhydrous ammonia, which produces a hazardous and volatile environment, is used in the Nazi method to speed the production of methamphetamine. According to DEA, most anhydrous ammonia thieves are addicted to methamphetamine and are willing to go to great lengths to obtain the ammonia, which they sell or exchange for methamphetamine. Law enforcement agencies report a wave of anhydrous ammonia thefts from farms and supply outlets in the Central and Southern Districts. Farmers store anhydrous ammonia as a liquid under pressure in large tanks in their fields. Thieves remove locks from tanks with bolt cutters and use garden or vacuum hoses to siphon the ammonia from the tanks. Since the tanks can hold as much as 100,000 gallons, thefts—often of as little as a gallon or two—frequently go undetected.

Methamphetamine production is a serious safety and environmental concern. The production process creates toxic and hazardous waste that endangers law enforcement personnel, emergency response teams, and the environment. Methamphetamine laboratories may contain a variety of highly flammable toxic chemicals and vapors. Clandestine laboratories produce 5–6 pounds of toxic waste for every pound of methamphetamine produced. Most toxic residue from methamphetamine production is dumped in the local area, contaminating groundwater and killing vegetation. In Adams County, methamphetamine cookers are gathering all the necessary equipment and precursors and cooking on rural, gravel roads and leaving waste in ditches. Government agencies spend millions of dollars every year to clean up laboratory sites.

Transportation

Mexican DTOs are transporting methamphetamine into Illinois from California and Mexico. DEA offices in Wyoming report that cities there have become transit centers for multipound quantities of methamphetamine shipped from California to Chicago. Seizures of methamphetamine from private vehicles driven from California and Texas to Illinois have

become more common over the past 2 years. In June 1998, the California Highway Patrol seized 13.4 kilograms of methamphetamine from two Mexican males during a traffic stop in Placer County, California. The suspects were en route to Chicago from San Francisco. In October 1998, a California man was indicted on federal drug charges after officers of the Kansas State Patrol seized approximately 12 kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in hidden compartments in his 1985 Jaguar. The suspect was stopped for speeding while traveling from California to Chicago. In 1999, there were several seizures of methamphetamine destined for Chicago from California. For example, an Operation Valkyrie stop in Illinois resulted in the seizure of 2.5 kilograms of methamphetamine, and in San Bernardino County, California, 17.2 kilograms were seized—both shipments were destined for Chicago. According to the Chicago HIDTA, methamphetamine from California is also being shipped to Illinois via the mail and other package delivery services.

Methamphetamine is also transported from Mexico to Illinois through other states on the Southwest Border. For example, two Mexican nationals were arrested in Texas in May 2000 with 31 kilograms of methamphetamine secreted in a private automobile being driven to Chicago. Methamphetamine transported to Chicago from the Southwest Border area is usually not consumed in the city but is transshipped to rural areas of Illinois and to other states in the region. In August 1998, an individual was arrested and charged with supplying 8 kilograms of methamphetamine from Chicago to users in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and Border Patrol agents seized 31 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1995 Mercury Grand Marquis at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281, 13 miles south of Falfurrias, Texas. The 29 bundles of suspected Mexico-produced methamphetamine, wrapped in brown tape, were found in a compartment hidden above the gas tank in the front section of the trunk. Several bundles had the letters “CH” written on them. Inside the vehicle was a map that showed a route to Illinois with Chicago circled. A 45-year-old male and a 43-year-old female, both Mexican national residents of Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, were arrested.

Source: EPIC, Daily Summaries, 15 May 2000.

Methamphetamine produced in clandestine laboratories in Illinois and surrounding states is transported in private vehicles throughout the region via the highway system. Increased law enforcement pressure in Missouri is forcing methamphetamine laboratory operators to relocate to rural parts of western Illinois, where the methamphetamine is produced and transported back to Missouri for sale.

Distribution

Wholesale

Mexican DTOs are now the largest wholesale distributors of methamphetamine in Illinois. Mexican DTOs use the same distribution channels for methamphetamine that are used for cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. Hispanic street gangs are becoming involved in methamphetamine distribution from Illinois to surrounding states. Three members of the Chicago-based Latin Kings were sentenced in June 2000 for their roles in a multistate methamphetamine distribution operation. The methamphetamine, along with cocaine and marijuana, was shipped from Mexico to Illinois for distribution in Illinois and Michigan. Although outlaw motorcycle gangs, primarily the Hells Angels, remain active in retail distribution, they no longer control wholesale distribution of methamphetamine.

Hells Angels

Created in 1948, the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club (HAMC) has grown from a small group to a multinational criminal organization with over 2,000 members. It is estimated that the HAMC has over 100 chapters worldwide. Each chapter maintains a self-governing hierarchy that normally consists of a president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, and sergeant-at-arms.

The HAMC traffics in methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, LSD, heroin, PCP, MDMA, and steroids. In addition to its drug trafficking activities, the HAMC is reportedly involved in prostitution, vehicle and motorcycle theft, fraud, weapons and explosives trafficking, assault and murder for hire, extortion, witness intimidation, and gambling operations.

Source: NDIC, *The Hells Angels Outlaw Motorcycle Club: A United States Perspective*, 1998.

Retail

Outlaw motorcycle gangs and Hispanic gangs supplied by Mexican DTOs and independent Caucasian dealers who produce their own methamphetamine control the retail distribution of methamphetamine in Illinois. The primary users of methamphetamine in Illinois are whites in rural areas of the state. Methamphetamine sales at the retail level take place predominantly in rural areas where most consumption takes place. While a relatively large quantity of Mexico-produced methamphetamine transits Chicago, there is little evidence that it is being sold at the retail level there.

Other Dangerous Drugs

The category ODD comprises club drugs, diverted pharmaceuticals, and hallucinogens. Club drugs such as MDMA, ketamine, and GHB are becoming increasingly popular, particularly among young people in urban areas and in college towns. There is a mistaken perception that many of these club drugs are not harmful or addictive. Nightclubs and "rave" parties are the primary retail distribution points, although many of these drugs are increasingly being distributed in other environments. The diversion of legitimate pharmaceuticals such as Ritalin is a significant problem in Illinois. (See Appendix for responses to the NDIC National Drug Threat Survey 2000.)

Abuse

"Club" or "designer" drugs are general terms for synthetic drugs that have become popular with teenagers and young adults who frequent nightclubs and raves. These drugs include MDMA, PCP, ketamine, Rohypnol, GHB, and GBL (gamma-butyrolactone). The popularity of these drugs has increased in large part because their hallucinogenic and stimulating effects enhance the rave experience. There is also a perception that many of these club drugs are not harmful or addictive like cocaine and heroin. Many users are experimenting with a variety of club drugs, other drugs, and alcohol—an extremely dangerous combination. Law enforcement sources in urban areas and in college towns located in the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois report an increase in the abuse of these drugs.

MDMA is both a stimulant and hallucinogen. MDMA "trips" usually last from 4 to 6 hours, although the effect varies from person to person. If taken in tablet or capsule form, the onset of the effect takes approximately 30–45 minutes; if snorted, smoked, or injected, the effect is felt more quickly. Immediate physical reactions include increased heart rate, body temperature, and blood pressure as well as nausea and cramping. The full effect is usually attained within an hour after ingestion and includes feelings of well being, euphoria, and clarity of thought as well as anxiety or paranoia.

Three overdose deaths in the Chicago area in the first few months of 2000 have been blamed on an MDMA analog known as PMA (paramethoxyamphetamine). PMA is a stimulant like MDMA, but it is much more powerful. It quickly raises body temperature and can cause heart failure, kidney failure, or stroke. It is typically stamped with the same three-diamond Mitsubishi logo that is associated with MDMA, and it is nearly impossible to detect the difference without a chemical analysis. The pills examined in these overdoses are known by the street name "Double-stack White Mitsubishi."

Raves

Raves are dance events that feature hard pounding techno-music and flashing laser lights. They are often promoted through flyers and advertisements distributed at clubs, in record shops, in clothing stores, on college campuses, and over the Internet. Rave club owners and promoters often sell items that are associated with MDMA use. They sell bottled water to prevent dehydration, pacifiers to prevent involuntary teeth clenching, and menthol nasal inhalers, chemical lights, neon glow sticks, necklaces, and bracelets to enhance the effects of MDMA.

Source: NDIC, *Joint Assessment of MDMA Trafficking Trends*, 2000.

GHB and Rohypnol are often referred to as "date rape" drugs. They are powerful sedatives and have become a significant problem, particu-

larly on college campuses. GHB is a central nervous system depressant that has been approved in some countries for use as an anesthetic. It is unlawful to produce or distribute GHB in the United States, but recipes and do-it-yourself kits are available on several Internet sites. Because GHB is odorless and colorless, it is virtually undetectable when mixed in beverages. The manufacturer of Rohypnol now adds a blue dye that is detectable in drinks, which may explain a decrease in the popularity of Rohypnol and an increase in GHB. When even small amounts of these drugs are mixed with alcohol, the victim loses consciousness for several hours. Teenagers and young adults attending rave parties take these drugs to lessen the "crash" associated with coming down from other drugs. There have been over 5,700 overdoses and 58 deaths associated with GHB in the United States and Canada since 1990.

Ketamine is growing in popularity in Illinois as a club drug on the rave scene and in all-night dance clubs, and its use is spreading from major metropolitan areas to smaller towns. Ketamine, also known as "Special K," "Vitamin K," or "kit-kat," is a chemical derivative of PCP primarily developed as an anesthetic for both veterinary and personal use. Ketamine can be used in its pharmaceutical liquid form or dried by evaporation or in a microwave oven to produce a white powder. In liquid form, ketamine has little to no smell and looks like water. Ketamine can be injected, smoked, swallowed, snorted, or mixed in both alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks. Intramuscular injection is usually preferred because a burning sensation in the nasal passages associated with snorting powdered ketamine is very unpleasant. It also has an unpleasant taste in both liquid and powder forms. Although ketamine is often listed as one of the "date rape" drugs, DEA is aware of only one documented case nationwide in which ketamine was used to facilitate a rape. Ketamine produces a hallucinogenic effect similar to LSD but of less intensity and shorter duration, an hour or less. It is often used in conjunction with alcohol, cocaine, or marijuana. Dosage amounts vary greatly and are governed to a large degree by the individual's body weight. A typical dose for a 150-pound individual is about 100 milligrams when injected into a muscle and 200 milligrams when snorted. Small doses of ketamine act as a mild sedative, while larger doses lead to unconsciousness. Ketamine users experiment with increasing doses, seeking an intense psychedelic experience just short of unconsciousness. Overdose deaths from ketamine abuse are extremely rare because lethal limits are at least 20 to 30 times standard dosages.

The abuse of LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) in the Chicago area appears to be declining. LSD potency, currently between 20 and 80 micrograms per dosage unit, is significantly lower today than it was in the 1960s when dosages were 100–300 micrograms. LSD users experience hallucinations, confusion, suspicion, and anxiety. Flashbacks can occur after a user has stopped taking the drug.

The diversion of legitimate pharmaceuticals is a significant problem in Illinois. Ritalin, a controversial drug prescribed for attention deficit disorder in children, may be gaining popularity as a recreational drug for teens and preteens. In May 2000, officials at a middle school in the Chicago suburbs announced that they disciplined 15 students accused of selling or abusing the drug. The Macon County Sheriff's Department in central Illinois reports that children with prescriptions for Ritalin are selling the drug to other children in school. According to DEA, Ritalin is among the controlled prescription drugs reported as most frequently stolen in the United States. Street names include "Vitamin R" and "R-Ball." A 1997 Indiana University survey of 44,232 young people nationwide showed that nearly 7 percent of high school students reported using Ritalin recreationally at least once in the previous year, and 2.5 percent reported using it monthly or more often. DAWN data reveal that in 1995 and 1996, 10- to 14-year-olds were just as likely to mention Ritalin as cocaine in a drug-related ED episode. Nearly 75 percent said they used the drug for psychic effects or recreation.

Availability

The availability of club drugs in Illinois is increasing, particularly in the Chicago area and in college towns. The Rockford Police Department reports that MDMA is the fastest growing drug problem in its jurisdiction. Several of the task forces and metropolitan enforcement groups report an increase in the prevalence of GHB and MDMA, especially on college campuses and in the northern part of the state. Jurisdictions in Central Illinois, particularly those associated with colleges and universities, are also beginning to report the availability of MDMA in their areas. Seizures of MDMA rose significantly in the Chicago area over the past 3 years. In the 6-month period ending in May 2000, USCS agents at O'Hare International Airport seized over 150,000 MDMA pills. MDMA seizures by USCS agents nationwide soared from 400,000 tablets in 1997 to over 3.5 million in 1999. In the first 7 months of 2000, USCS agents seized over 8 million MDMA tablets, more than 20 times the number seized in all of 1998.

Prices for other dangerous drugs have remained relatively stable over the past few years. See Table 8 for current prices in Chicago.

The only known domestic source of illicit ketamine is diverted pharmaceutical products, primarily from burglaries and thefts from veterinary clinics. Thefts of ketamine from veterinary clinics in the Northeast and Midwest are increasing the availability of this drug to abusers. According to the Illinois State Police, there were at least 24 burglaries of veterinary clinics in northern Illinois during the last 9 months of 1999.

Ketamine is also purchased legally in Mexico and smuggled across the border. During the last quarter of 1999, law enforcement noted a significant increase in the number of arrests and seizures associated with ketamine along the California border with Mexico. DEA classified ketamine as a Schedule III drug in August 1999 in part because of reports of escalating abuse and diversion from legitimate sources.

Sting Ends Ketamine Theft Ring

In January 2000, Illinois police broke up a ring of drug thieves believed responsible for a rash of burglaries at veterinary clinics in Illinois and throughout the Midwest. The thieves were stealing ketamine, an animal anesthetic sold illegally for its hallucinogenic effect.

Five individuals under the age of 20 have been arrested so far. A 16-year-old Chicago boy claimed he was making up to $2,000 a week selling the drug.

Source: *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association,* 1 March 2000.

The theft and diversion of ketamine is a relatively high profit, low risk venture. Most ketamine is sold through networks of friends or associates connected with the rave scene. Typically it is not sold on the street. A vial of liquid ketamine costing $7 is easily converted into a gram of powder that sells for as much as $200.

Table 8. Other Dangerous Drug Prices, 2000

Drug	Single Dose	Gram	Ounce
MDMA	$15–$30 per pill		
LSD	$5–$7		
PCP (liquid)	$25 per vial	$80–$100	$100–$500
GHB	$5	$150/200 grams	
Rohypnol	$3–$5		$500/gallon
Methcathinone	$25 per 1/4 gram		$1,000–$1,200

Source: Chicago HIDTA, *Threat Assessment FY2001*.

Violence

Violent crime is not normally associated with abusers of club drugs. However, rapes that result from the surreptitious use of date rape drugs would certainly be classified as violent crimes.

Production

The production of club drugs occurs in foreign countries and domestically. At least 80 percent of all the MDMA in the world is produced in clandestine laboratories in Western Europe, primarily in the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Germany. MDMA is pressed into pill or tablet form with a wide variety of recognizable logos such as the Mitsubishi three diamonds or a Nike Swoosh to identify various brands. There are reports of some smaller laboratories operating in the United States and Canada.

GHB can be made inexpensively using ingredients available in local supermarkets or specialty stores with recipes found on the Internet. In October 1999, a Southern Illinois University student pleaded guilty in federal court to manufacturing nearly 240 gallons of GHB in 1997.

Rohypnol is legally manufactured as a powder in Brazil and Switzerland, then shipped to Colombia and Mexico to be pressed into pills. Illicit shipments of Rohypnol are smuggled to the United States via overnight mail, commercial air, and pedestrian traffic across the Southwest Border.

LSD, most common in the middle- and upper-income areas of Chicago, has typically been produced in California in clandestine laboratories. In December 2000, however, two California men were arrested for allegedly operating an LSD laboratory in an abandoned Kansas missile silo. This laboratory produced almost one-third of the nation's supply of LSD—approximately a kilogram each month or enough for 10 million doses.

PCP is clandestinely manufactured in Los Angeles by a limited number of Bloods and Crips street gangs. PCP production is relatively simple and requires chemicals that are cheap and readily available.

Transportation

MDMA is smuggled into Illinois from Europe, while PCP, LSD, and Rohypnol are transported from California and the Southwest Border area by a variety of methods. Most club drugs are transported to Illinois by mail and package delivery services or by couriers on commercial airlines and in private vehicles. Large quantities of 10,000 or more tablets are shipped from Europe to cities in the United States via express mail, couriers on commercial flights, and airfreight shipments. For example, in December 1999 the USCS intercepted a parcel package containing 22,000 MDMA tablets. The package, which originated in Paris, was transferred to the Illinois State Police for a controlled delivery. In November 1999, USCS and the Chicago Police Department seized over 7,000 MDMA tablets in several packages mailed from the Netherlands. There also was a seizure of 36,156 tablets of MDMA (street value $903,900) at O'Hare International Airport in October 1999. Three people were arrested when the MDMA, which originated in Germany, was found attached to their thighs and legs with surgical gauze and nylon pantyhose. Two of the individuals were from North Carolina and one was from Georgia.

Distribution

Wholesale

Israeli and Russian organized crime syndicates supplied by Western European producers have become the major wholesale distributors of MDMA in the United States. These criminal groups work closely with Israeli and Russian midlevel wholesale distributors in large metropolitan areas in the United States.

GHB is usually distributed locally by the young Caucasian males who produce it. Lawful production of GHB only occurs in Europe. However, GHB is relatively easy to produce and the widespread publication of recipes and the ease with which precursor chemicals can be obtained make the clandestine production of GHB an increasing problem. Only two chemicals, both of which are legal to possess, combined with other common items are needed to produce GHB. Most illegally produced GHB is in liquid form. The powdered form of GHB is much more difficult to synthesize, and it is usually only converted into a powder when it is commercially manufactured.

Rohypnol is smuggled into the United States in parcel packages from Europe and South America. Rohypnol produced in Europe is shipped to Colombia and Mexico where it is pressed into pills, which are smuggled into the United States via overnight mail, commercial air, and pedestrian traffic across the Southwest Border. The pills are then distributed to independent wholesalers.

Retail

Nightclubs and rave parties are the primary retail distribution points for MDMA and other club drugs, although many club drugs are increasingly being distributed outside of clubs and raves. Retail dealers are typically white suburban teenagers who are involved in the rave scene. Sales usually occur between friends and acquaintances. MDMA tablets in the Chicago area retail for approximately $25, while they are available at a wholesale price from 50 cents to $2 each. In Rockford, MDMA can be purchased in bulk for $15 per tablet, while single tablets sell for as much as $35 each.

Three Men Charged in Undercover MDMA Sting

Three men, aged 19–20, are facing felony charges after buying more than 1,200 MDMA tablets from undercover police officers in DuPage County, Illinois. DuPage County Metropolitan Enforcement Group investigators said that the investigation involved an undercover operation at local nightspots. Officials were unable to determine where these individuals might rank as players in the local drug market.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*, 11 July 2000.

Outlook

The high levels of drug abuse and availability in Illinois pose significant problems. DAWN ED admissions, drug-related overdose deaths, drug abuse by arrestees, and self-reporting show a continued upward trend. Lower prices and higher purity levels indicate that drugs are readily available throughout Illinois. The following issues present areas of concern.

Crack cocaine's standing as the most significant drug problem in Illinois will continue. Crack sales by street gangs and the attendant violence continue to spread from large urban areas to suburban and rural areas of Illinois. Law enforcement sources in Illinois report that violent crime associated with the sale and abuse of crack is one of the most serious problems they face. Most federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in Illinois cite the violent crime associated with gang-related drug trafficking as the most serious criminal threat to the state.

Heroin abuse will continue to increase in the Chicago area. A growing category of young, white, suburban heroin users in the Chicago area prefer higher purity white heroin over Mexican brown powdered or black tar heroin. Mexican heroin producers may be changing their product to meet this demand. Increased supply, lower cost, and higher purity levels of heroin will lead to increased heroin abuse in suburban and rural areas.

The high rate of marijuana abuse by Illinois students foreshadows a new generation of adult drug abusers. Higher rates of drug abuse by school age students are tied more to the perception of lesser risk than increased availability. Teenagers increasingly perceive marijuana and club drugs as harmless. The increased abuse of marijuana and club drugs by students may lead to increased abuse of other drugs as students grow older. One national study determined that children who use marijuana are 85 times more likely to use cocaine than nonusers.

Methamphetamine availability and production are growing rapidly in Illinois. Methamphetamine is now the most significant drug threat in the rural areas of the state and the second biggest threat, after crack, in some urban areas of central Illinois. Although methamphetamine availability in Chicago is low, abuse in Chicago may increase slightly as the popularity of the drug increases in the northern and northeastern parts of the state. If methamphetamine makes inroads into Chicago, it will likely occur through Mexican organizations supplying Hispanic street gangs that sell methamphetamine at the retail level to Hispanic and Caucasian users.

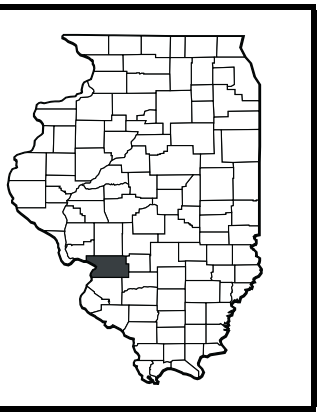
The dramatic increase in the availability and abuse of club drugs in urban areas of Illinois will continue. Seizures of these drugs continue to rise significantly in the Chicago area. In the 6-month period ending in May 2000, USCS agents at O'Hare International Airport seized over 150,000 MDMA pills. Varying levels of purity and the tendency to mix club drugs with alcohol and other drugs present a danger to the user and will increase the number of ED and treatment admissions.

Increases in ketamine abuse will likely parallel an increase in the rate of thefts or diversions from legitimate sources. Jurisdictions that begin to encounter veterinary clinic burglaries should expect an increase in the availability of ketamine and alert hospitals and substance abuse treatment centers to the possibility of an increase in ketamine abuse patients. Law enforcement officials and the American Veterinary Medical Association recommend that ketamine and other drugs be stored in a secure lock box to protect them from theft.

Appendix: Summary of Illinois Respondents to the National Drug Threat Survey 2000

Alton Police Department

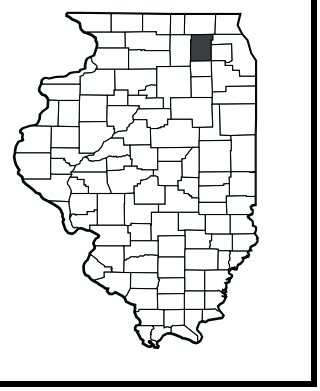
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	Moderate	High	High	Stable
Crack	High	High	High	Stable
Heroin	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Stable
Marijuana	High	High	Moderate	Stable
Methamphetamine	Moderate	High	High	Increase
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	The drug that poses the greatest threat to the Alton community is crack cocaine.
Drug Source	St. Louis, MO; Chicago, IL; Houston, TX
Transportation	Rail, St. Louis Airport, and personal vehicles
Traffickers	Gangs have a stranglehold on this community through crack cocaine sales. Alton has Gangster Disciples from Chicago, Black Disciples from Chicago and Houston, Vice Lords from Chicago, and Crips from East St. Louis.
Crime	Drug trafficking is linked to retail theft, burglary, aggravated battery with firearms, and murder.
Changes	Methamphetamine laboratories are on the rise.

Aurora Police Department

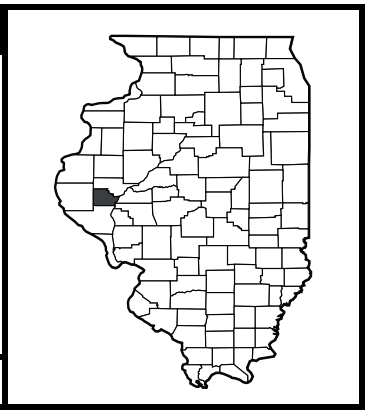
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	High	High	High	Stable
Crack	High	High	High	Stable
Heroin	Low	Low	Low	Stable
Marijuana	High	High	High	Stable
Methamphetamine	Low	Low	Low	Stable
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	Both crack and powdered cocaine are sold on the street by street gangs, creating situations for other gang-related crimes such as drive-by shootings, robberies, and vehicle thefts.
Drug Source	Chicago, IL; El Paso, Laredo, and McAllen, TX; Los Angeles, CA
Transportation	Vehicles, planes, buses, parcel delivery services, and the mail
Traffickers	Mexican criminal groups; Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, Black Stones, and Four Corner Hustlers
Crime	Drug trafficking and abuse are contributing factors in other crimes such as shootings, robberies, vehicle thefts, burglaries, retail thefts, home invasions, and weapons violations.
Changes	Not reported

Brown County Sheriff's Department

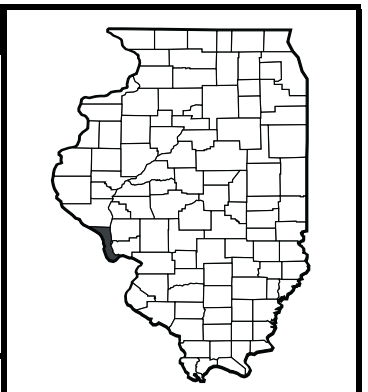
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
Crack	Low	Low	Low	Stable
Heroin	Low	Low	Low	Stable
Marijuana	High	High	High	Increase
Methamphetamine	High	High	High	Increase
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	Methamphetamine availability
Drug Source	Chicago, Springfield, Quincy, and Beardstown, IL; St. Louis, MO
Transportation	Personal vehicles
Traffickers	African-American street gangs and Mexican criminal groups
Crime	Not reported
Changes	Increase in methamphetamine

Calhoun County Sheriff's Department

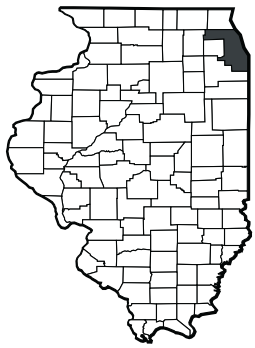
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
Crack	Low	Low	Low	Stable
Heroin	Low	Low	Low	Stable
Marijuana	High	High	Moderate	Increase
Methamphetamine	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	The greatest drug abuse threat to our citizens is marijuana. There has been an increase in portable methamphetamine laboratories in the past year.
Drug Source	Marijuana: Alton, Jacksonville, and Jerseyville, IL; Methamphetamine: MO
Transportation	Personal vehicles
Traffickers	Local independent dealers
Crime	Not reported
Changes	Increase in portable methamphetamine laboratories and in thefts of anhydrous ammonia from farm supply outlets

Chicago Police Department

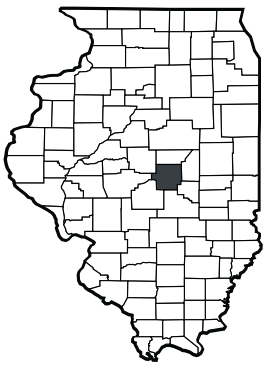
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	High	High	High	Increase
Crack	High	High	High	Increase
Heroin	High	High	High	Increase
Marijuana	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Stable
Methamphetamine	Low	Low	Low	Stable
ODD	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Increase



Drug Threat	Heroin and crack cocaine abuse have led to increases in violent and property crime levels and to the deterioration of entire neighborhoods. There is also a high level of designer drug use by teens, leading to overdoses.
Drug Source	Colombia and Mexico
Transportation	Trucks, personal vehicles, and airport (via luggage concealment and body carriers)
Traffickers	Colombian, Mexican, and Nigerian criminal organizations control importation and wholesale distribution. Street gangs control retail sales.
Crime	Homicides and shootings over drug territory disputes and property crimes committed to support drug habits
Changes	Increase in the availability and use of designer drugs and in the supply of South American heroin

Decatur Police Department

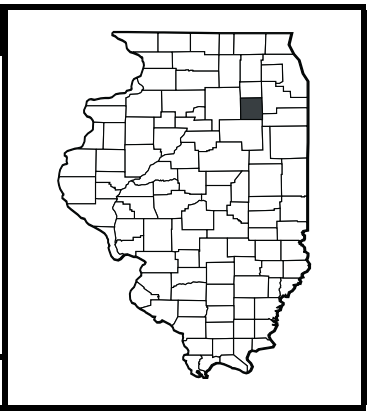
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	High	High	Moderate	Stable
Crack	High	High	High	Stable
Heroin	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Stable
Marijuana	High	High	Moderate	Stable
Methamphetamine	Moderate	High	High	Increase
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	Crack cocaine is our greatest drug threat because it is readily available and highly addictive, and it leads to extreme acts of violence. Methamphetamine is our second biggest threat due to the prevalence and danger of laboratories.
Drug Source	Chicago, IL; St. Louis, MO
Transportation	Personal vehicles, parcel delivery services, and the mail
Traffickers	Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, independent dealers, and Mexican criminal groups
Crime	Extreme acts of violence and property crimes associated with crack cocaine
Changes	The federal prosecution of 23 Gangster Disciples has led to a decrease in crack cocaine availability and in related violent crime.

Grundy County Sheriff's Office

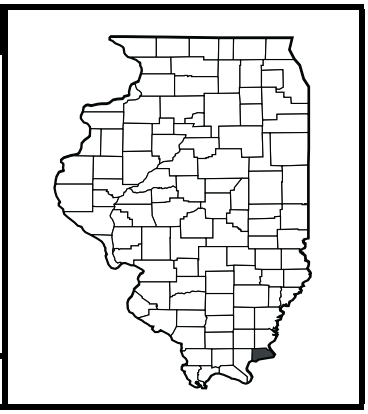
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	High	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
Crack	High	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
Heroin	Low	Low	Moderate	Stable
Marijuana	High	High	Moderate	Increase
Methamphetamine	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	The availability of cocaine and crack cocaine; crack is very addictive and inexpensive
Drug Source	Joliet, Aurora, and Bloomington, IL
Transportation	Personal vehicles
Traffickers	Hispanic street gangs
Crime	Property crimes committed to support drug habits
Changes	Increase in the availability of crack cocaine and the emergence of date rape drugs

Hardin County Sheriff's Department

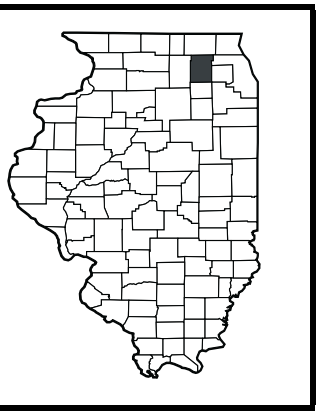
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Stable
Crack	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Stable
Heroin	Low	Low	Low	Stable
Marijuana	High	High	High	Increase
Methamphetamine	High	High	High	Increase
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Decrease



Drug Threat	Methamphetamine laboratories with the toxic fumes and danger of explosions
Drug Source	Local
Transportation	Not reported
Traffickers	Local independent dealers
Crime	Offenders are getting smarter, which makes detecting the production and distribution of drugs more difficult.
Changes	Increase in the production and abuse of methamphetamine and in the use of marijuana by youth

Kane County Sheriff's Office

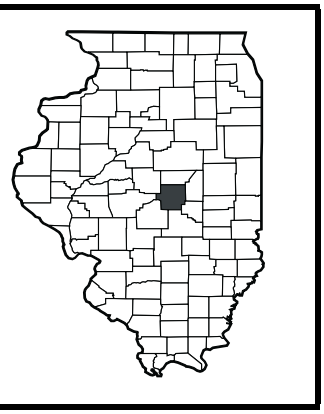
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	High	High	High	Increase
Crack	High	High	High	Increase
Heroin	Moderate	High	Moderate	Stable
Marijuana	High	High	Moderate	Increase
Methamphetamine	Low	Moderate	Low	Stable
ODD	High	High	High	Increase



Drug Threat	Crack cocaine because of the associated violence, robberies, and other crimes
Drug Source	Chicago, IL; El Paso, TX; Mexico
Transportation	Trucks (tractor-trailers) and cars
Traffickers	Mexican criminal groups, street gangs, and Caucasian dealers
Crime	Those abusing drugs are usually involved in burglaries, robberies, and thefts
Changes	More independent Mexican traffickers have entered the drug trade. Heroin has become popular among wealthy teenagers, especially females. Ecstasy and GHB seem to be more popular among the upper middle class.

Macon County Sheriff's Department

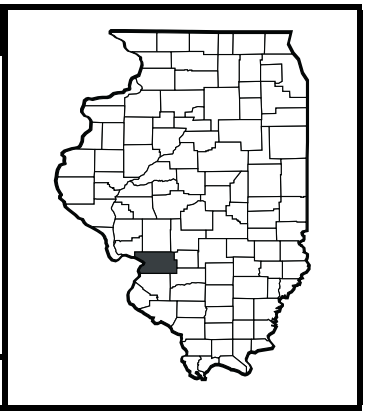
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	High	High	High	Increase
Crack	High	High	High	Increase
Heroin	Low	Low	Moderate	Increase
Marijuana	High	High	High	Increase
Methamphetamine	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	Methamphetamine laboratories and the theft of anhydrous ammonia from farm supply outlets
Drug Source	Chicago and East St. Louis, IL; Brownsville, TN; Indianapolis, IN
Transportation	Trucks and personal vehicles
Traffickers	Street gangs, Mexican criminal groups, bikers, Jamaican criminal groups
Crime	Business and residential burglaries as well as vehicle thefts committed to support drug habits
Changes	Marijuana and methamphetamine abuse are on the rise, particularly among juveniles. Children on Ritalin are selling their prescriptions to other youth.

Madison County Sheriff's Department

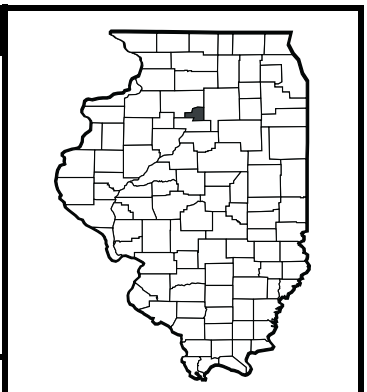
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Stable
Crack	High	High	High	Increase
Heroin	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Stable
Marijuana	High	High	Moderate	Stable
Methamphetamine	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	Crack cocaine poses the greatest threat to the safety and security of our citizens.
Drug Source	St. Louis, MO; East St. Louis and Chicago, IL
Transportation	Personal vehicles
Traffickers	Local street gangs
Crime	Crack users commit burglaries to support their habit. Drug rip-offs occur between dealers, sometimes leading to violence.
Changes	Increases in thefts of anhydrous ammonia from farm supply outlets by methamphetamine laboratory operators from rural areas of Missouri

Putnam County Sheriff's Department

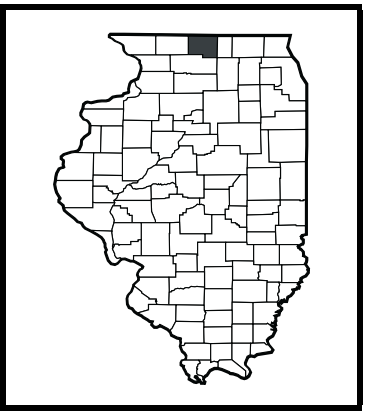
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
Crack	Low	Low	Low	Decrease
Heroin	Low	Low	Low	Decrease
Marijuana	Moderate	High	High	Increase
Methamphetamine	Low	Low	Low	Stable
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	Marijuana and cocaine because they are both used by 15–30 year olds; marijuana is used more frequently, particularly by youth, leading to the abuse of other drugs
Drug Source	Chicago, Streator, and Rockford, IL
Transportation	Trucks and personal vehicles
Traffickers	Mexican criminal groups and Caucasian dealers
Crime	Not reported
Changes	Marijuana abuse is on the rise, particularly among juveniles.

Rockford Police Department

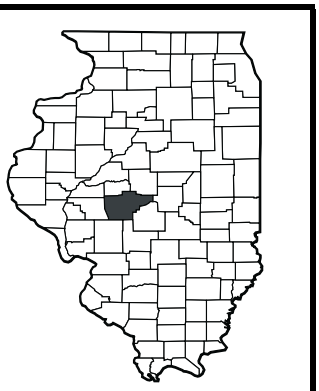
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
Crack	High	High	High	Stable
Heroin	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Stable
Marijuana	High	High	Moderate	Stable
Methamphetamine	Low	Low	Moderate	Increase
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	Crack cocaine sales are the main focus of gangs in Rockford. Many gangs use youngsters as dealers.
Drug Source	Chicago, IL; Milwaukee, WI
Transportation	Personal vehicles with hidden compartments, the mail, and private shipping companies
Traffickers	Wholesale: Mexican criminal groups; Retail sales: street gangs from Chicago and Milwaukee
Crime	Violence is often associated with crack cocaine sales. Users commit thefts, burglaries, and home invasions. Shootings are tied to drug trafficking.
Changes	Powdered cocaine and heroin are encountered more frequently.

Springfield Police Department

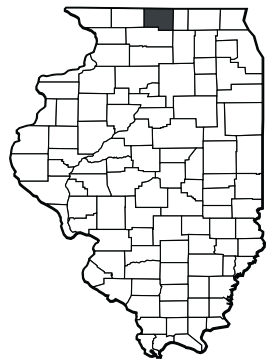
Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	High	Moderate	Moderate	Stable
Crack	High	High	High	Increase
Heroin	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
Marijuana	High	High	Low	Stable
Methamphetamine	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Increase
ODD	Low	Low	Low	Stable



Drug Threat	Crack cocaine is the major threat due to the high levels of abuse, associated violence, and high profit margins leading to sales competition.
Drug Source	Chicago, East St. Louis, and Decatur, IL
Transportation	Cars, trucks, and buses
Traffickers	Local independent dealers and street gangs; primarily Black Gangster Disciples
Crime	Violence associated with crack cocaine sales
Changes	Dealers are more cautious and aware of interdiction efforts; increases in the quantity and quality of marijuana, in local independent methamphetamine laboratories, and in the availability of designer drugs

Winnebago County Sheriff's Department

Drug	Availability	Abuse	Threat	Change
Cocaine	**High**	**Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Stable**
Crack	**High**	**High**	**High**	**Stable**
Heroin	**Low**	**Moderate**	**Low**	**Stable**
Marijuana	**High**	**High**	**Moderate**	**Stable**
Methamphetamine	**Low**	**Low**	**Low**	**Stable**
ODD	**Low**	**Low**	**Low**	**Stable**



Drug Threat	Crack cocaine because of the associated violence, robberies, and other crimes
Drug Source	Chicago, IL; El Paso, TX; Mexico
Transportation	Personal vehicles, vans, and trucks
Traffickers	Wholesale: Mexican criminal groups; Retail sales: local dealers
Crime	Violence and property crime are often associated with crack cocaine sales.
Changes	Not reported

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Responses from Illinois:

Alton Police Department
Aurora Police Department
Brown County Sheriff's Department
Calhoun County Sheriff's Department
Chicago Police Department
Decatur Police Department
Grundy County Sheriff's Office
Hardin County Sheriff's Department
Kane County Sheriff's Office
Macon County Sheriff's Department
Madison County Sheriff's Department
Putnam County Sheriff's Department
Rockford Police Department
Springfield Police Department
Winnebago County Sheriff's Department

Responses from other states:

Iowa
Indiana
Michigan
Missouri
Ohio
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Wisconsin

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