

THE
CHICAGO
COMMUNITY
TRUST

AND AFFILIATES

PUBLIC SAFETY, CRIME AND JUSTICE REPORT

October 2009



Cyan Li

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Every day, thousands of dedicated men and women in blue risk their lives to keep the residents of the sprawling Chicago metropolitan region safe. Their service and sacrifice are deeply appreciated.

Unfortunately, the criminal justice system in the Chicago metropolitan region and across the United States has been heavily criticized for not always meeting the “Big Three Es:” Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Equity.

The system is slow in administering justice and expensive to maintain. Too often the system that is supposed to rehabilitate offenders is unable to prevent them from returning to crime. And too often the system that is supposed to dispense justice is accused of enforcing laws in a manner that discriminates against persons of color and the poor.

Indeed, research has documented racial bias in decisions regarding arrests, searches, prosecutions, and sentencing, thus yielding today’s problem of disproportionate minority contact. Furthermore, research has documented some abusive encounters between the police and the public. This has resulted in reduced public confidence in the legitimacy of the criminal justice system.

In an attempt to enhance safety in our communities, American society has become heavily reliant on punitive, zero-tolerance strategies. This has resulted in the rapid growth of prison populations over the past two decades, mostly affecting persons of color with limited means, and often involving non-violent offenders. The result is that United States now has the highest rate of imprisonment per capita in the world.

In addition to enhancing the existing system, this report suggests a need to seriously consider alternative models of justice, such as the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) approach – which gives balanced attention to public safety, individual accountability to victims and the community, and development of skills to help offenders live law abiding and productive lives.

The report also suggests the need to create an independent system of measurement to monitor the fairness of the criminal justice system and measure public safety outcomes that are important to the community, but are not captured in current indicators. Besides crime rates, the public cares about the quality of life in their neighborhoods as measured by levels of physical and social disorder, fear of crime, and their freedom to use the local environment without concern for safety. The community also cares deeply about equity and fairness during encounters with the police and other agents of the criminal justice system.

Although a number of issues were raised in researching and writing this report, six major issues and tasks stand out:

- Refining our understanding of the causes of crime and delinquency;
- Addressing the needs of crime victims;
- Fairness and equity in law enforcement strategies;
- Community engagement and capacity building for a holistic approach to crime prevention and intervention;
- Non-criminal justice solutions for drug offenders;
- Alternatives to incarceration and offender reentry.

VISION STATEMENT

The Northeastern Illinois region will be among the safest urban areas in the nation because of crime prevention strategies; effective law enforcement; improved access to opportunity; individual social responsibility, and increased civic involvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This vision can be achieved if the following recommendations are implemented:

CAUSES OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

1. Greatly reduce the rate of domestic violence, child abuse and other health risks to minors through a comprehensive best-practices approach to delinquency prevention that includes public education and government/community partnerships, and that prioritizes competency building for at-risk youth.

NEEDS OF VICTIMS

2. Implement the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ); target BARJ programs specifically to vulnerable populations (including minorities, women, youth, and elderly persons) and provide greater support for community-based implementations of BARJ for juveniles in both prevention and diversion.
3. Build community capacity to mobilize against sexual, domestic and gang violence, with counseling and advocacy services for sexual assault and domestic violence victims in every community, including immigrant and special needs populations.
4. Develop best practice treatment programs for adolescent and adult sex offenders both in prison and community-based aftercare; a network of accountability and treatment centers for men who batter, with services available in appropriate languages; sexual assault and dating violence/domestic violence education at every level of schooling; and evaluate program efficacy and recidivism.

5. Provide comprehensive 24-hour emergency medical, forensic, advocacy and counseling response for sexual assault survivors in regionalized sexual assault treatment centers located in hospital emergency rooms.
6. Ensure better consolidation of the medical and forensic response to sexual assault victims with skilled, trained sexual assault nurse examiners and forensic personnel; ensure that evidence is analyzed in all cases; and reduce backlogs of rape kit evidence at crime labs.
7. Expand network of supervised visitation centers for families affected by domestic violence utilizing standards developed by federal Safe Havens Project.
8. Develop affordable housing for domestic violence victims and provide targeted job development, job readiness, training, placement and ongoing support for battered women to enable economic self-sufficiency.
9. Support comprehensive regional child advocacy centers for physically and sexually abused children.
10. Expand services to investigate abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of seniors.

FAIRNESS AND EQUITY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

11. Guide law enforcement agencies with a comprehensive community-oriented approach to policing that encourages problem solving, information sharing, community engagement, and performance measurement.
12. Utilize the Internet and state-of-the-art information sharing technologies to enhance communication and trust between police and community members, share information and improve responsiveness and sensitivity.
13. Solicit feedback from citizens about police performance and equity issues.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

14. Form reciprocal partnerships between criminal justice agencies, public health agencies, schools, businesses, community organizations, and other stakeholders to develop comprehensive strategic approaches to public safety, working across jurisdictional boundaries to maximize resources in crime prevention and intervention.

NON-CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOLUTIONS FOR DRUG OFFENDERS

15. Reduce drug abuse and addiction through legislation, policies, and programs that reformulate the response through a public health rather than a criminal justice lens.
16. Create a comprehensive evidence-based statewide alternative to incarceration plan to treat non-violent drug offenders.
17. Mandate individual and professional clinical assessment for all individuals entering the criminal justice system for non-violent drug offenses for substance abuse and mental health disorders by an independent entity, prior to sentencing.
18. Create new revenues to establish statewide alternatives to incarceration, increasing resources for probation and parole officers, training, smaller caseloads, individualized interventions and sanctions, more contact with drug offense probationers, and expansion of treatment.
19. Re-examine Illinois drug sentencing guidelines, reviewing the impact of particular sentencing enhancements like Drug Free Zones and of lowered drug weight and equivalent felony penalty class for possession and sales, and broadening probation eligibility for drug offenses.

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION AND OFFENDER REENTRY

20. Sharply reduce the number of people under correctional supervision through an integrated strategy of sentencing reform, a shift in funding toward community-level, treatment-based correctional alternatives, effective risk assessment, and removal of barriers to successful offender reentry.
21. Change public attitudes about drug enforcement to reflect a greater interest in harm reduction rather than drug enforcement.
22. Reduce prison populations by investing in mental health courts, following best practices established by the Council of State Governments Justice Center.
23. Reduce prison readmissions by implementing intermediate sanctions such as day reporting centers for offenders who break the rules of their release; using short-term residential facilities for persistent rule violators with substance abuse problems; and providing performance incentives that shorten terms of supervision for offenders who comply with their conditions and fulfill obligations.

24. Reduce length of stay by implementing risk-reduction credits that allow slightly earlier release for inmates who complete treatment and education programs designed to reduce recidivism; developing risk-based release instruments based on analysis of actual recidivism patterns to help releasing authorities decide who is ready for release; and providing sufficient program availability so inmates can complete requirements.
25. Remove legal and structural barriers faced by formerly incarcerated persons to employment, housing, and health and behavioral health services.
26. Create a seamless and coordinated system of support for the formerly incarcerated, with community-based service networks in high-impact regions, increased access to employment related training grants for smaller organizations, coordinated strategies for enhancing investments in reentry support services, and employment-related partnerships with private companies.
27. Address the social stigmas attached to a criminal record with community-based public awareness campaigns.

Chapter One

ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The advisory committee met on October 3, 2008 and January 30, 2009 to review information, data and reports compiled by staff to inform discussions centered on crime and justice issues in the seven-county Northeastern Illinois region that will warrant attention and resources between now and the year 2040.

Between those two meetings, advisory committee members were asked to complete an on-line survey regarding the current conditions in their field of criminal justice and in their communities and the anticipated effects of projected changes in demographics on criminal justice goals and objectives for reaching a safe, equitable, efficient region by the year 2040.

The survey also asked members to assess the nature and magnitude of specific crime and justice issues raised at the first advisory committee meeting. Although a multitude of issues were raised by the committee, they were distilled into six major themes:

- Refining our understanding of the causes of crime and delinquency;
- Addressing the needs of crime victims;
- Fairness and equity in law enforcement strategies;
- Community engagement and capacity building for a holistic approach to crime prevention and intervention;
- Non-criminal justice solutions for drug offenders;
- Alternatives to incarceration and offender reentry.

First, the issues and challenges of each theme are described. In Chapter Three, the recommendations and strategies for each theme are addressed.

Refining our Understanding of the Causes of Crime and Delinquency

Inevitably, the risk factor most often cited as a precursor to crime is poverty. One fact is well established — there is more violent and property crime in economically depressed communities than in affluent communities. In looking ahead to 2040, then, the state of the economy could have an impact on levels of crime. That fact leads naturally to the assumption that if a community becomes more prosperous, crime rates will go down, and if income levels decline, crime rates go up. Economists who have studied this view have discovered that it is often true, but not always.¹ For

example, in the 1960s, the national homicide rate rose by 43% even though the country was in a period of great prosperity and low unemployment. The homicide rate fell in the 1980s, even as the economy was wobbling, with high interest rates and a steep rise in business bankruptcies. Although national trends do not always show covariation between the economy and crime, the link between poverty and crime at the community level is well established. Therefore, the 2040 plan should pay attention to economic issues in the region. But a wider range of potential causal factors must be addressed.

This report begins with a look at recent crime trends in the region as well as trends in existing data on family, school and community risk factors — factors that have been identified in prior research as causes of crime and delinquency.

CRIME TRENDS IN THE SEVEN-COUNTY REGION

- Statewide, there was a slight decrease in Part I crimes between 2001 and 2006; the overall decrease was comparable for violent (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) and property crimes (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson), 2.5% and 2.1%, respectively.
- For the seven-county region, the overall decrease for violent crime was sharper (3.9%) than the decrease for property crime (2.5%).

Table 1
UCR Part I Crime in Chicago, seven-county region and state by crime type and average annual percent change between 2001 and 2006

	2001			2006			Average annual percent change		
	Illinois	Chicago	7-County Region	Illinois	Chicago	7-County Region	Illinois	Chicago	7-County Region
Part I total	524,386	198,694	365,205	467,372	165,474	315,426	- 2.2%	- 3.3%	- 2.7%
Violent	81,327	46,534	60,713	71,226	35,292	48,927	- 2.5%	- 4.8%	- 3.9
Property	443,059	152,160	304,492	396,146	130,182	266,499	- 2.1%	- 2.7%	- 2.5

Source: Illinois Uniform Crime Reports available at the Illinois State Police Web site

Data on risk factors in the areas of family, school and community for the Northeastern Illinois region are provided below.²

FAMILY RISK FACTORS

Domestic violence

- Exposure to domestic and community violence are significant risk factors for delinquency, and they increase the likelihood that youth will experience school disruption and poor academic performance, which are also risk factors for delinquency.³
- From 2002 to 2007, the rate of reported domestic violence incidences decreased 23% in the Northeastern Illinois region.
- In 2007, the region’s rate of reported domestic violence incidents per 100,000 in the population was 3% higher than the state rate.

Table 2
Reported domestic violence incidents in the Northeastern Illinois region, 2007

County	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	% change in rate 2002- 2007
Cook	68,332	1,293	-22%
DuPage	2,731	294	+1%
Kane	1,912	382	+10%
Lake	2,518	355	-27%
McHenry	569	180	-9%
Will	2,360	350	-15%
Kendall	395	408	-28%
Region total	78,817	926	-23%
State total	115,006	895	-14%

Source: Illinois State Police, Uniform Crime Reports

Child abuse and neglect

- Research has found that abused and neglected children have delinquency rates 47% higher than children who are not abused or neglected.⁴
- From state Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 to FY 2008, the rate of indicated child abuse and neglect investigations increased 6% in the Northeastern Illinois region. *[Note: “Indicated investigations” are the unique number of children for which the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) found credible evidence of abuse and neglect.]*
- In FY 2008, the region’s rate of indicated child abuse and neglect investigations per 100,000 in the population was 33% less than the state rate.

Table 3
Indicated child abuse and neglect investigations
in the Northeastern Illinois region, Fiscal Year 2008

County	Number	Rate per 100,000 children	% change in rate FY03- FY08
Cook	7,770	589	-7%
DuPage	787	339	+50%
Kane	1,050	708	+42%
Lake	1,567	790	+39%
McHenry	652	758	+34%
Will	924	478	+30%
Kendall	106	379	+6%
Region total	12,856	583	+6%
State total	27,947	874	+11%

Source: Illinois Department of Child and Family Services. FY08 rates were calculated using U.S. Census Bureau data 2007 estimates, the most recent data available.

SCHOOL RISK FACTORS

A meta-analysis of risk factors for delinquency found that academic failure and low school attachment were significant predictors of juvenile delinquency.⁵

Truancy

- Truancy data is available on all youth enrolled in Illinois public schools. Students are considered truant if they have been absent from school without valid cause for one or more days during the academic year.
- From Academic Year (AY) 2003 to AY 2008, the rate of school truancies increased 85% in the Northeastern Illinois region.
- From AY 2003 to AY 2008, the rate of school truancies more than tripled in Will County, from 8,364 to 26,418.
- In AY 2008, the region's rate of school truancies per 100,000 students in the population was 5% less than the state rate.

Table 4
School truancy in the Northeastern Illinois region, AY 2008

County	Number	Rate per 100,000 students	% change in rate AY03- AY08
Cook	176,815	23,158	+121%
DuPage	18,806	11,932	+50%
Kane	35,171	30,106	+114%
Lake	21,776	15,824	-29%
McHenry	6044	11,454	+1%
Will	29,868	26,418	+216%
Kendall	3670	17,992	-4%
Region total	292,150	21,454	+85%
State total	458,946	22,553	+69%

Source: Illinois State Board of Education. Data include youth enrolled in public high schools in Illinois.

Dropouts

- From AY 2003 to AY 2008, the rate of high school dropouts decreased 16% in the Northeastern Illinois region.
- From AY 2003 to AY 2008, the rate of high school dropouts more than tripled in McHenry County, from 374 to 1,255.
- In AY 2008, the region's rate of high school dropouts per 100,000 students was 15% more than the state rate.

Table 5
High school dropouts in the Northeastern Illinois region, Academic Year 2008

County	Number	Rate per 100,000 high school students	% change in rate AY03- AY08
Cook	17,229	7,276	-7%
DuPage	730	1,395	-28%
Kane	990	2,938	-27%
Lake	925	2,142	-68%
McHenry	208	1,255	+236%
Will	844	2,533	+11%
Kendall	112	1,973	-48%
Region total	21,038	4,990	-16%
State total	27,860	4,354	-25%

Source: Illinois State Board of Education. Data include youth enrolled in public high schools in Illinois.

COMMUNITY RISK FACTORS

Research has found delinquency is correlated with drug availability, high levels of adult criminality, exposure to violence and exposure to racial prejudice in the community.⁶

Studies have found that communities with higher levels of poverty or social disorganization tend to have higher levels of juvenile delinquency.

Poverty

- From 2003 to 2008, the rate of children living in poverty increased 2% in the Northeastern Illinois region. *[Note: Annually, the U.S. Census Bureau defines poverty by a monetary income threshold for families according to family size.]*
- In 2008, the Northeastern Illinois region’s rate of children living in poverty per 100,000 children was 4% less than the state rate.

**Table 6
Children living in poverty in Northeastern Illinois region, 2007**

County	Number	Rate per 100,000 children	% change in rate CY02- 2007
Cook	281,408	21,323	+3%
DuPage	13,181	5,671	+3%
Kane	16,234	10,944	+20%
Lake	16,488	8,316	+11%
McHenry	5,418	6,295	+44%
Will	13,829	7,159	-5%
Kendall	1,343	4,805	+9%
Region total	347,901	15,771	+2%
State total	524,318	16,389	+8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Overall, the data on causes of crime in the Northeastern Illinois region found that in the past five years:

- The rate of domestic violence incidents in the region was slightly higher than the state rate.
- The rate of indicated child abuse and neglect investigations in the region increased slightly.
- The rate of school truancies in the region increased 85%.
- The region’s rate of high school dropouts was 15% more than the state rate.
- The rate of children living in poverty in the region increased slightly, but less than the rate of increase for the state.

Addressing the Needs of Crime Victims

Crime victimization produces a wide range of harm to individuals and communities. Many offenders are former crime victims (and vice versa), creating a general culture of harm in certain urban areas. Victims often lose property or have it damaged and sustain substantial physical injury.⁷ Criminal violence is also associated with considerable psychological trauma.⁸ The range of costs include those caused directly by the offender, those incurred by individuals and society in an effort to deter or prevent criminal victimization, those incurred by the offender and those associated with the criminal justice response.⁹

The personal costs alone of criminal violence to victims are substantial and can be viewed as falling into four categories.¹⁰

- First, out-of-pocket expenses include property damage and loss and the cost of medical care. Although insurance often covers partial or full restitution for such costs, victims can still be required to pay insurance deductibles and often face higher premiums when renewing their insurance. Particularly in the case of violent crimes, victimization often results in physical injury.¹¹ Some data indicate that almost one-quarter of all victims of violent crime sustain some physical injury, of which almost 7% incur some form of medical expense and almost 5% received hospital care.¹² Contributing to these expenses, almost one-third of these victims have no health care insurance.¹³
- A second type of cost stems from lost wages and productivity. Approximately 12% of all victims of criminal violence experience some loss of time from work.¹⁴ Of this group, more than 50% lose between 1 and 5 days, and almost 15% lose 11 or more.¹⁵
- A third category of costs is associated with psychological trauma. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and its symptoms are well recognized as consequences of criminal violence. One study found that one-quarter of all crime victims experienced a related PTSD, including nervous breakdowns, suicide ideation, and suicide attempts. Furthermore, recent research indicates that almost 50% of all victims of sexual assault and approximately 5% of victims of assault and robbery incur costs for mental health services.¹⁶
- The final category of costs to victims of crime is less tangible, stemming from pain, suffering and reduced quality of life. The established market value for these intangible costs is difficult to determine. One strategy, however, is to base estimates on jury awards to crime and burn victims.¹⁷ Typically, these estimates are based on the portion of the jury verdict designed to compensate the victim for pain, suffering, and diminished quality of life.

The cost estimates associated with the first three categories range between \$1,800 and \$6,800, depending on the particular crime type. A more recent study suggests that these estimates may significantly underestimate the personal costs of crime, and that previous estimates did not properly consider long-term socioeconomic detriments stemming from violent victimization.¹⁸ This life-course model developed by sociologist Ross Macmillan suggests that long-term costs of criminal victimization stem from the psychological consequences of victimization that disrupt processes of education and occupational attainment, ultimately resulting in diminished income in later life. When viewed in this more comprehensive fashion, the costs of criminal violence for individuals victimized in adolescence are considerably steeper than earlier estimates. Based on this expanded paradigm, Macmillan estimates losses in income from violent victimization in adolescence to be well over \$200,000.

Domestic violence, also referred to as spouse abuse, woman battering, intimate partner violence, domestic abuse and family violence, is a problem of epidemic proportions. According to a recent report,¹⁹ nearly 25% of women surveyed indicated that they were physically assaulted and/or raped by a current or former spouse, cohabitating partner, or date at some time in their lives. In 2003, 10% of violent crimes reported to law enforcement were committed by an intimate partner, and from 1998 to 2002, 11% of all violent crimes were committed by a family member.²⁰ Intimate partner crimes are committed much more frequently against women than against men. The Bureau of Justice Statistics found that 85% of the victims of intimate partner violence were women.²¹

These are the most recent domestic violence figures for the Northeastern Illinois region:

Table 7 Domestic violence offenses in 2007

Cook - 68,332
DuPage - 2,731
Kane - 1,912
Kendall - 395
Lake - 2,518
McHenry - 569
Will - 2,360
Northeastern Illinois region total - 78,817

Source: Illinois State Police, Uniform Crime Reports

Looking ahead to 2040 the population is expected to be older, which indicates a need to plan for possible increases in elder abuse and other crimes against the elderly, such as financial exploitation. As seen below, a substantial number of elder abuse cases have taken place within the Northeastern Illinois region.

Table 8 Elder abuse cases in 2006

Cook - 2,784
DuPage - 225
Kane - 233
Kendall - 17
Lake - 168
McHenry - 122
Will - 193
Northeastern Illinois region total - 3,742

Source: Illinois Department on Aging

Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) advocates that the adult and juvenile justice systems give balanced attention to public safety, individual accountability to victims and the community, and development of skills to help offenders live law-abiding and productive lives. Illinois adopted the BARJ model in the language of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act,²² but has still had limited implementation in many jurisdictions; BARJ is rarely considered in the adult system.

Fairness and Equity in Law Enforcement Strategies

Too often, municipal police organizations have not responded appropriately and professionally to citizens as victims, witnesses, suspects, complainants and concerned citizens. One “neighborhood problem” that needs to be addressed in urban areas is the troubled relationship that exists between police and local residents, especially persons of color who live in high-crime neighborhoods.

Research conducted by Rosenbaum suggests that the introduction of police strategies and tactics without the consultation with the community may result in inequitable policing (e.g., racial profiling), and aggressive and insensitive policing (e.g., verbal abuse, excessive force).²³ The price to the police organization may be a loss of the community’s trust and confidence. The cost to the individual officers may be alienation from the community, compromised safety and lower morale.²⁴

Traditionally, police accountability has been an internal and legal process, focusing on the control of officers through punitive enforcement of rules, regulations and laws. Today, police organizations are under pressure to be responsive to the public both for crime control and police conduct. The apparent success of New York’s technology-driven COMPSTAT model has made “accountability” the new buzzword in policing. But the questions are 1) to whom are police accountable? and 2) for what are they accountable? Unfortunately, the COMPSTAT model requires the beat officers and their supervisors to be accountable primarily to central management in the traditional police hierarchy. As for the “what,” despite new technology systems, police organizations continue to rely on the traditional “big four” to measure their performance: reported crime rates, overall arrests, clearance rates and response

times.²⁵ Too many law enforcement agencies have blindly followed the narrow application of COMPSTAT technology to hold police officers and managers accountable for jurisdictional crime rates.

In the future, policymakers must give greater attention to measuring what matters to the public. In addition to crime, the public will undoubtedly be concerned about the overall quality of life and level of disorder in their neighborhood (e.g., loud music, public drunkenness, youth hanging out). Fear of crime and their ability to use their own neighborhood (e.g., walk to the store or use the park without harassment) are also important indicators of public safety. In the public safety domain, treatment of citizens by police is also of paramount importance. There is widespread concern about equitable treatment by race, gender, class, sexual orientation and religion. In the future, the region should develop new and standardized indicators of these components of public safety as a means of monitoring progress by law enforcement agencies in a multicultural society. An annual public safety survey, managed by an independent agency, would be a worthwhile investment. Many of the appropriate measures have been developed in previous research.²⁶

At the same time, community-oriented approaches have been adopted by some law enforcement agencies to address these concerns. The most visible partnership between the police and the community is arguably seen in the adoption of community policing strategies. A working definition of this model offered by researchers includes 1) organizational changes that encourage a closer relationship between police officers and the neighborhoods they service, such as decentralization of authority, attendance at community meetings and foot and bike patrols; 2) serious problem-solving that considers the concerns and problems expressed by neighborhood residents; and 3) community engagement designed to stimulate and empower community residents in the prevention of crime and disorder.²⁷

Police executives report that their organizations have changed substantially in structure and function since the early 1990s, in response to the community policing agenda. These national surveys indicate that self-reported implementation of police-community partnerships, collaborative problem solving, and organizational change more than doubled in the mid-1990s.²⁸

On the other hand, police observers and researchers have argued that findings from national studies offer an inflated view of the level of support for community policing.²⁹ Some researchers have noted that community policing has not been widely and deeply institutionalized because of internal resistance and a lack of organizational readiness (e.g. training and policies).³⁰ This suggests the need to establish measurement systems that are able to monitor progress with these types of reforms. The Office of Community-Oriented Policing has initiated work in this area. Also, the National Institute of Justice has funded the development of a National Police Research Platform that will begin to develop new metrics to capture

organizational change over time. Chicago and other jurisdictions in the region will have opportunities to participate in this initiative.

For community policing to be successful in practice, the relationship with the public must be strengthened. Community policing in the future will require a new level of information sharing.³¹ If policing organizations wish to decentralize their authority, for example, beat officers must be empowered with up-to-date information about neighborhood characteristics. If data-driven problem solving is a priority, then police officers and supervisors need timely geo-based information. Especially important are data about the concerns and priorities of local residents and community organizations. If community engagement is a priority, then police officers need reliable information on local resources that can be leveraged to help prevent crime and disorder.

Without data systems that collect relevant community-based information about police performance and local community issues, and without new channels of communication, behavior on both sides is unlikely to change.

Community Engagement and Capacity Building for a Holistic Approach to Crime Prevention and Intervention

Increasingly, those who study the criminal justice system have argued that the system cannot, by itself, solve the complex problems of crime, drugs and disorder in our society — at least in the long run.³² Given the multiple and complex causes of crime and drug use, a growing chorus of scholars argue that a new approach is needed, one that tackles these problems from multiple angles, applying a multitude of strategies. This reasoning has been used, in turn, to justify the creation of anti-crime and anti-drug partnerships or coalitions – a group of organizations that can bring distinctive but complementary skills and resources to the table and can produce coordinated and targeted responses to public safety concerns.³³

Research indicates, for example, that delinquency and youth violence are caused by a wide range of factors, including poor parenting and childhood maltreatment,³⁴ personality deficits,³⁵ peer group influences,³⁶ community social disorganization and structural characteristics³⁷ and environmental opportunities.³⁸ While much of this research has focused on specific risk factors, some have called for an integrated perspective on human development, recognizing that different systems interact and have differential effects on individuals at various stages in the life cycle.³⁹

So, for example, the adverse effects of child abuse can be compounded by inferior education, lack of economic opportunities, inadequate health and public services, the absence of positive role models, weak collective efficacy among neighborhood residents, peer pressure to join youth gangs and easy opportunities for criminality. A compounding of such factors can lower one's probability of living a productive,

healthy and crime-free life. Recognizing these complexities, some researchers and policy analysts have proposed comprehensive, multi-level interventions as a strategic approach to increasing public safety, especially in urban settings.

Public safety has seen a few important examples utilizing this type of comprehensive model. The classic Chicago Area Project was established in 1931 to encourage community self-help and prevent juvenile delinquency.⁴⁰ The Boston Mid-City Project in the 1950s and the Mobilization for Youth Program in Manhattan in the 1960s attempted to replicate the basic idea behind the Chicago Area Project,⁴¹ as they sought to mobilize community involvement across grassroots, social service, faith-based and government organizations.

Involvement in partnerships by law enforcement agencies appears to be on the rise. National survey data⁴² indicate that the number of U.S. law enforcement agencies who report participating in “partnership-building activities” has grown substantially since the mid-1990s. The five most common partnership activities were: joint crime prevention programs (e.g., Neighborhood Watch), regular community meetings, joint projects with businesses, projects with residents to reduce disorder and citizen surveys.

The promise of partnerships has led to several government-sponsored national demonstration programs. The U.S. Department of Justice has funded several key initiatives to demonstrate the value of collaboration for addressing public safety issues. The Community Responses to Drug Abuse Program (CRDA) in nine cities encouraged police departments and community organizations to join forces, along with other social service agencies, to combat local drug markets and to provide services to high-risk youth. A national evaluation of CRDA found that the partnerships were productive and educational to all parties. Some conflict between group members did arise because of the mixture of professional and community representatives who generally advocated divergent approaches to program planning and implementation.⁴³

The partnership concept was expanded further in the 1990s when the Department of Justice funded initiatives that were more comprehensive in nature, while retaining law enforcement in a central role. The Comprehensive Communities Program (CCP) was initiated in 1994 “to demonstrate an innovative, comprehensive, and integrated multiagency approach to a comprehensive violent crime/community mobilization program.”⁴⁴ Cities were encouraged to engage in strategic planning that involved partnership building, data-driven problem identification and problem solving, and documentation of results. The national process evaluation found that most CCP sites were able to create new partnerships or broaden existing partnerships to include representation from the community, private sector, and many levels of government.⁴⁵ In terms of crime outcomes, many of the sites reported substantial reductions in crime in target neighborhoods during the two-year demonstration period⁴⁶, but a rigorous impact evaluation was not conducted and crime rates were on the decline nationally during this period.

The most visible Department of Justice partnership initiative involving law enforcement has been the Weed and Seed Program, with more than 200 communities involved today, including East Aurora in Kane County. It is a comprehensive, multifaceted anti-crime program, started in 1991 to achieve the following objectives:⁴⁷

- To develop a comprehensive, multiagency strategy to control and prevent violent crime, drug trafficking and drug-related crime in targeted high-crime neighborhoods;
- To coordinate and integrate existing as well as federal, state, local, and private-sector initiatives, criminal justice efforts and human services to concentrate those resources in the project sites to maximize their impact;
- To mobilize residents in the targeted sites to assist law enforcement in identifying and removing violent offenders and drug traffickers from their neighborhoods and to assist other human service agencies in identifying and responding to service needs in the target area.

The agriculturally-derived program title suggests a two-prong strategy of “weeding” out violent criminals in the target neighborhood through law enforcement and prosecution efforts, and “seeding” the area with prevention, intervention, treatment and revitalization services.

Both process and impact evaluations of Weed and Seed were conducted. Law enforcement agencies were heavily represented on the steering committees, and therefore, for the purposes of developing and implementing weeding strategies, was relatively successful across the sites.

In contrast, interagency cooperation among federal, state and local prosecutors was not as successful. Too often, the local district attorney’s office, which handled 92% of all Weed and Seed cases, felt excluded by the “feds” from the planning and decision-making process and received no federal grant funds for their efforts.

The most innovative component of Weed and Seed — the seeding of preventive social services — was also the biggest disappointment during the initial demonstration period. The reasons for this were numerous, ranging from insufficient funds for seeding activities (less than one-fourth of the total funds on average) to inadequate attention from program leaders. From a multiagency partnership perspective, the composition of the seeding committees was also problematic. Local agencies (e.g., police, mayor’s office, city services, non-profit organizations) were overrepresented on many seeding committees. The evaluation findings underscored the importance of bringing the right people to the table from the beginning, including representatives from the district attorney’s office and from the target neighborhoods. It was also seen that community representation is also critical to prevent neighborhood residents from becoming angry and resentful of “weeding” activities.

Non-Criminal-Justice Solutions for Drug Offenders

The only counties within the Northeastern Illinois region having increases in drug related arrests since 2001 are Lake (1.2%) and McHenry (3.9%). The other counties saw their total drug arrest totals decrease; the most substantial reduction was in Kendall County (- 7.4%); less dramatic decreases were found in DuPage (- 2.0%), Kane (- 2.4%), Will (- 2.2%) and Cook counties (- 0.8%). Chicago drug arrests dropped by 0.6%, which was similar to the overall state trend (- 0.5%). We should note, however, that these recent figures do not reflect the larger trend over the past two decades. Since the 1980s, drug-related arrests have increased dramatically and have leveled off in recent years.

Table 9
Drug arrest rates per 100,000 population for Northeastern Illinois region and Chicago in 2001 and 2007

Total drug arrests	2001	2007	Annual average percent change between 2001 and 2006
Cook	1342.3	1214.2	- 0.8%
DuPage	464.6	458.6	- 2.0%
Kane	525.0	411.4	- 2.4%
Kendall	640.5	378.0	- 7.4%
Lake	508.8	573.9	+1.2%
McHenry	358.0	396.0	+3.9%
Will	537.3	508.5	- 2.2%
Chicago	2,002.4	1,904.6	- 0.6%
Illinois (all counties without Chicago)	899.2	856.0	- 0.5%

Source: Illinois State Police, Uniform Crime Reports

Between 1983 and 2005, the number of drug offenders in Illinois prisons rose from 547 to 11,179, a 20-fold increase.⁴⁸ National estimates confirm that over half of all non-violent felony offenders meet the diagnostic criteria for substance abuse or dependence—about 15,000 in Illinois.⁴⁹ The public dollars spent annually to incarcerate drug offenders in Illinois is estimated at just over \$240 million.⁵⁰

Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) data on the recidivism rate of offenders released after serving time for drug offenses shows that, of the 13,067 drug offense

exits in 2001, 54.5% returned to prison within three years.⁵¹ (The data does not reflect the recidivism of substance abusers who were incarcerated for non-drug offenses.) The data establishes that, without treatment, more than half of the inmates with substance abuse issues will be repeatedly recycled through the system. Treatment and supervision of drug offenders in lieu of incarceration results in cost savings: \$5,925 per year for probation, case management and drug treatment⁵² versus \$22,278 for one year of prison followed by one year on parole at a cost of approximately \$1,000 per year. The objective of increasing public safety is better met through effective treatment because treated addicts re-offend far less than those who are incarcerated without treatment, with some studies documenting a 30% reduction.⁵³

The drug treatment infrastructure currently in place in Illinois reaches offenders at many stages of contact within the criminal justice system. From drug schools, which divert offenders entirely from the system, to parole-based programs, Illinois has the mechanisms to divert non-violent offenders into treatment alternatives through pre-dispositional programs, specialized problem-solving courts or general docket courtrooms that have access to specialized probationary programs.

Drug school is a voluntary treatment option. It is designed to divert those who are minimally involved with drugs and the criminal justice system and prevent them from going deeper into either realm. Drug schools do not provide treatment; however, referrals are provided for those who exhibit dependence. The program provides educational classes addressing the negative aspects of using drugs and the impact of having a drug conviction on one's record. Charges are dismissed upon successful completion of drug school and offenders may apply for immediate expunction.

Within the Controlled Substances Act, the Cannabis Control Act and the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, the legislature included options for treatment for first offenders. This "**first offender probation**"⁵⁴ is generally available to offenders who have not been previously convicted of any drug law violations and for whom the current charge is the lowest level of simple possession.⁵⁵ Upon successful completion of probation, the person is discharged and the proceedings are dismissed.

The 2002 Drug Court Treatment Act enables the Chief Judge of any circuit in the state to establish a **drug court** program and provides for the structure for operating the court.⁵⁶ Within the seven-county Northeastern Illinois region, drug courts exist in both the criminal and juvenile divisions in Cook and Kane counties, the criminal divisions of DuPage and Lake counties, and the juvenile division of Will County.

Generally, those who go through drug court are more drug-involved and have lengthier criminal records than drug school participants;⁵⁷ therefore more intensive treatment and monitoring are required. Before entry into a drug court program in Illinois, an offender must be screened and evaluated by a treatment professional.

The program itself must include a regimen of graduated incentives, rewards and sanctions.⁵⁸ Procedurally, an offender enters into a contract, or written agreement, regarding the terms of his or her participation in the program. Failure to follow those conditions may result in the imposition of sanctions, or ultimately, discharge from the program. Upon successful completion of the program, the court may dismiss the original charges against the defendant or successfully terminate the defendant's sentence or otherwise discharge him or her from further proceedings in the original prosecution.⁵⁹

In general, evaluation results pertaining to drug courts have been positive. According to a study released in 2003 by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) from a sample of 17,000 drug court graduates nationwide, within one year of program graduation only 16.4% had been rearrested and charged with a felony offense.⁶⁰ Positive results have been realized in the Cook County drug court program, where graduates from 1999 through 2005 demonstrated a reduction in felony arrests by 84% and a 73% reduction in total arrests. Drug court cost estimates range from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per participant per year, which is substantially less than incarceration costs.⁶¹

Illinois has also had **statutory diversion alternatives** available for drug-involved offenders for decades. The statutes describe eligibility and process for criminal justice treatment interventions and mandate the availability of treatment alternatives to drug-involved offenders under the supervision of a "designated program."⁶² That program in Illinois is the Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC), and it is the only agency designated by the Secretary of the Department of Human Services to provide substance abuse assessments and recommendations for the Illinois courts. For each client, TASC conducts a comprehensive, strengths-based assessment, develops an individualized service plan, and monitors progress back to the court. TASC also employs drug use screening as needed to aid in assessment, treatment matching and monitoring of client's compliance with court mandates. Most drug-involved persons charged with or convicted of a probationable crime may elect treatment under the supervision of TASC, although there are eligibility exceptions including crimes of violence, limits on the amount of drugs involved, and multiple previous attempts at treatment.

Table 10
Drug treatment admissions in Northeastern Illinois region,
1995 - 2006

County	Year			% change 1995-2006
	1995	2000	2006	
Cook	35,651	44,769	65,556	+ 84%
DuPage	778	1,337	2,169	+ 179%
Kane	1,040	1,292	2,478	+ 138%
Kendall	52	84	258	+ 396%
Lake	1,502	2,317	3,001	+ 100%
McHenry	325	530	1,106	+ 240%
Will	1,122	1,570	2,508	+ 123%

Source: Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Counties across the state, including Cook, also operate successful intensive **drug probation programs**. These are post-dispositional and use intensive supervision, drug testing and treatment, as well as other requirements such as curfew, community service, employment or school to curb drug use and offending behavior. Probation officers assigned to monitor these probationers have special training and expertise which enables them to work effectively with addicted offenders. Placement on intensive probation often substitutes for jail or prison sentences.

Finally, when diversion alternatives earlier in the justice process have been exhausted, **drug prisons** provide a treatment option for high-risk offenders. In January 2004/ the Illinois Department of Corrections reopened the Sheridan prison facility as a drug prison.⁶³ Sheridan moves drug-involved offenders through an intensive drug treatment, cognitive skills development, vocational and job preparation program. The program begins in the prison setting and follows through reentry and back into communities under an extensive case management program with heightened supervision. The cost per Sheridan inmate of \$46,012 in SFY 2007⁶⁴ is more than twice the average inmate cost of \$21,278; however, the expectation is for long-term savings in terms of reduced recidivism.

After two years of operation, the results are promising. Sheridan graduates have been found to be 21% less likely to be rearrested and 44% less likely to return to prison. In SFY 2007, the Meth Prison and Reentry Program was established at the Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center (SWICC) in East St. Louis to address the crisis posed by methamphetamine abuse in many communities. The southwestern facility is scheduled to become a fully dedicated drug prison and reentry program in the model of Sheridan.

Alternatives to Incarceration and Offender Reentry

Over the past 40 years, violent crime in Illinois has decreased while the prison population has increased dramatically. The number of people entering and leaving Illinois prisons is nearly 40,000 annually, including a growing number of low-level, nonviolent, drug-addicted offenders. More than half (51.8%) of those released from Illinois prisons return within three years; of those returned to prison in 2005, 60.7% were for technical violations of parole.⁶⁵ The Illinois prison population has grown by more than 500% since 1970, driving up the costs to taxpayers of operating the state's prison system. From 1970 to 2005, the budget for IDOC, which is in charge of the state's 27 adult prisons and the parole system, has increased from \$65 million to \$1.3 billion. Even when these numbers are adjusted for inflation, the IDOC budget more than quadrupled over this period.

History shows, however, that states that increase their funding for prisons do not necessarily see crime rates drop any more than states that do not. More specifically, we now know that increasing prison and jail populations does not produce lower crime rates.⁶⁶ Research has shown that the increasing rates of incarceration in the United States have been subject to diminishing returns in effectiveness.⁶⁷

Reasons for the rising prison and jail populations are multilayered and complex. Some of the factors that must be examined are the disproportionate involvement in the prisons (and the justice system overall) of young black males, as well as those with mental illness and substance abuse disorders; the use of the criminal justice system to enforce immigration laws; and skyrocketing imprisonment rates for women.⁶⁸

African-Americans and Latinos bear the brunt of the increased use of prisons and jails. One recent report indicates that 1 out of every 100 adults in the U.S. is behind bars, but 1 out of every 9 African-American men between the ages of 20 and 34 and 1 out of every 36 Hispanic adults is imprisoned.⁶⁹ According to numbers from the Department of Justice, African-Americans are now more than five times as likely and Latinos are more than twice as likely as whites to be housed in a prison or a jail.⁷⁰ Although African-Americans and Latinos combined make up only a third of the U.S. population, they constitute almost two-thirds of the prison and jail populations. Disproportion is especially profound for drug offenses. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMSHA) National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) found that in 2002, 8.5% of whites were current users of illicit drugs, compared to 9.7% of African Americans.⁷¹ However, a recent report by the Justice Policy Institute determined that African Americans are admitted to prison disproportionately for drug offenses at 10 times the rate of whites.⁷²

Government entities struggling to address homelessness, mental illness and immigration have turned to prisons and the justice system with mixed results. For example, policies that criminalize homelessness have their origin in the "broken

windows” theory.⁷³ This theory suggests that unkempt neighborhoods attract a criminal element, so crime can be controlled by a rigorous enforcement of “quality of life” ordinances that regulate panhandling, sleeping in public and other public order offenses.

Nationally, approximately 15% of prison inmates and 24% of jail inmates have psychotic disorders. The estimated numbers of seriously mentally ill people in Illinois prisons and jails is more than 12,500.⁷⁴ Sixty percent of the jail population lives with a mental health disorder, compared to 10.6% of the general population.⁷⁵ People living with mental illness are frequently swept into the criminal justice system because of the failures of the public mental health system and the lack of adequate treatment in most poor communities.

As a result, prisons and jails alike function as the largest psychiatric facilities in the country. In many ways, prisons and jails are ill-equipped to meet the complex needs of people living with mental illness. Incarceration itself can contribute to the destabilization of people with mental illness. From 1993 to 1998, public mental health spending increased 4.1% per year nationally, and from 1998 to 2003 spending increased 8.3% per year — a sign that people may be increasingly aware of the benefits of increased spending on mental health. Still, spending on mental health lags behind spending on police and corrections (\$100 million on mental health versus \$143.8 million on police and corrections).⁷⁶

Despite these trends, evidence suggests that in some instances policymakers and the general public are beginning to question the efficacy and fairness of our reliance on prisons and jails. A poll revealed that in 1994 only 48% of the public supported interventions that addressed the underlying causes of crime such as poverty and lack of education, whereas in 2002, 65% of the public supported these sorts of interventions over stricter sentencing.⁷⁷

For some reason, many Americans believe that prison is a final destination for persons convicted of serious crime, but reality is much different. Almost all — between 95 and 97% of those who are incarcerated or detained in Illinois and nationally — will serve their time and come home. The average prison stay in Illinois is just slightly more than one year. More than 54% are locked up again within three years. The City of Chicago absorbs more than 50% of those released prisoners. There is a tremendous need for support services for this group of releasees:

- 75% have been in prison before.
- Less than half had a high school education before entering prison.
- Two-thirds reported drug use prior to prison.
- Only 14% have a job lined up after release.

- Only 19% have any sort of health coverage.

There is a need to address education, job readiness, healthcare, mental health and family ties in offender reentry planning:

- The more education a prisoner receives while incarcerated, the more likely he or she is to succeed upon release. One national study found that prisoners who participated in any educational programming in state prison had a 29% reduction in reincarceration rates compared to those who did not participate in such programs.⁷⁸
- Formerly incarcerated individuals with jobs — and with the associated economic resources, structure and self-esteem that stable employment provides — are three times less likely to return to prison than those without jobs.⁷⁹
- Seamless and continuous health services are effective for long-term, lasting outcomes, including decreased drug use, lower recidivism rates and reduced hospital stays.⁸⁰
- Creative collaborations between mental health systems and criminal justice systems not only reduce crime and prevent unnecessary incarcerations but also save public dollars. One Chicago study documented substantial cost savings, more than \$18,000 per person, from funding community mental health care and housing for released prisoners.⁸¹
- Research confirms the important role that families play in the success of people returning home from prison or jail, especially those coping with addiction. A New York study found that involving families during the first six months of an individual's release and treatment process helped to reduce drug use, decrease arrest rates and increase overall family well-being.⁸²

Report: Offender Reentry Recommendations

In April 2007, the Illinois report, “Inside Out: A Plan to Reduce Recidivism and Improve Public Safety,” was released by the 22-member Community Safety and Reentry Commission. The Commission’s Report is a blueprint for a statewide system that has four phases of implementation to ensure that the reentry process begins from the day that an offender is admitted to prison, that every day spent in prison is focused on preparing for a crime-free and drug-free reentry, that all parolees have a well-supervised and supported reentry that moves them away from drugs and crime and toward honest work and citizenship and that community capacity is developed to sustain success.

The Commission consolidated the recommendations of several working groups, which had exhaustively researched the needs of inmates, identified best practices and model programs and conducted numerous public hearings throughout the state

to gain a wide range of citizen input. The recommendations suggested a continuum so that a new reentry initiative would span four stages:

- Reception, assessment, and classification process at IDOC;
- Prison-based reentry preparation;
- Post-release reentry management;
- Community capacity and sustainability.

From the perspective of defining the role of communities within the seven-county Northeastern Illinois region, this report will offer endorsement to recommendations within the fourth stage, community capacity and sustainability.

Because most prison inmates typically come from (and return to) neighborhoods in the top 10 high-impact regions, which are plagued by high poverty, poor performing schools, low employment rates and high rates of drug crime, the Commission has recommended prioritizing resources to these areas. Within the Northeastern Illinois region, Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will counties are among the 10.

At this stage, enhanced or better coordination of existing resources is needed across the board in these regions to provide job and educational opportunities, accessible treatment programs, stable housing and viable alternatives to crime and drugs. Without them, even the most compliant parolees will return home lacking opportunities and become vulnerable to old, dangerous patterns. In addition to programs and services, staff in existing programs must be trained to identify and support the needs of the formerly incarcerated.

It is not only important to bolster community resources but to ensure that long-term social stigmas and legal barriers be addressed. Despite even the most successful efforts to reform, complete their education, and become responsible members of their communities, many of the formerly incarcerated are blocked from many jobs, and if not barred outright, they face serious hurdles in the form of employer suspicion, lack of accurate information and other social stigma. Regardless of the nature of their crime or proven track record of success, checking “yes” to the question on the job application, “Have you ever been convicted...?” is today’s scarlet letter. Not only are there stigma and legal restrictions on job applications, but on applications to subsidized housing, applications for federal education assistance and in many other arenas.

Although many programs serve the formerly incarcerated, they often lack sufficient funding, they are not coordinated in any meaningful way, and their ongoing sustainability is at constant risk. The state must therefore foster partnerships among various government agencies and the community and faith-based organizations by creating legislation that supports reentry, eliminating legislation that imposes barriers to reentry, and by reinvesting funds currently used to

incarcerate individuals into reentry programs and supports at the community level. Specific recommendations are incorporated below.

Chapter Two

A NEW VISION FOR CRIME AND JUSTICE PLANNING

The following vision statement was developed, consistent with the GOTO 2040 Regional Vision for Metropolitan Chicago.

The Northeastern Illinois region will be among the safest urban areas in the nation because of:

- *Crime prevention strategies;*
- *Effective law enforcement;*
- *Improved access to opportunity;*
- *Individual social responsibility;*
- *Increased civic involvement.*

Public safety is a defining feature of life in many communities of Northeastern Illinois and across America. The criminal justice system attempts to enhance public safety by responding when victimization occurs, maintaining order and preventing crime via the threat of punishment.

Unfortunately, the criminal justice system in the United States has been heavily criticized for not meeting the “Big Three Es” — Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity. Too often the system is slow in administering justice and expensive to maintain. Too often the system that is supposed to rehabilitate offenders is unable to prevent them from returning to crime. And too often the system that is supposed to dispense justice is accused of enforcing laws in a manner that discriminates against persons of color and the poor.

Indeed, research has documented that our criminal justice system is slow, ineffective at times and does not dispense justice equally. Racial bias has been documented in decisions regarding arrests, searches, prosecutions and sentencing, thus yielding today’s problem of disproportionate minority contact. Furthermore, research has documented some abusive encounters between the police and the public. This has resulted in reduced public confidence in the legitimacy of the criminal justice system.

American society has become heavily reliant on punitive, zero-tolerance strategies in an attempt to enhance safety in our communities. This has resulted in the rapid growth of prison populations over the past two decades, mostly affecting persons of

color and limited means, and often involving non-violent offenders. The result is that United States now has the highest rate of imprisonment per capita in the world.

This 2040 report on public safety addresses these concerns in a strategic manner as we develop a 30-year plan. In addition to enhancing the existing system (e.g., new training for law enforcement), this report suggests a need to seriously consider alternative models of justice, such as the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) approach — which seeks to restore communities, victims and offenders rather than removing and isolating offenders. There is also the need to create an independent system of measurement to monitor the fairness of the criminal justice system and measure public safety outcomes that are important to the community, but are not captured in current indicators.

Besides crime rates, the public cares about the quality of life in their neighborhood as measured by levels of physical and social disorder, fear of crime, and their freedom to use the local environment without concern for safety. The community also cares deeply about equity and fairness during encounters with the police and other agents of the criminal justice system. These outcomes can be monitored with community surveys administered by an independent organization.

A fundamental problem with our current approach to public safety is our heavy reliance on reactive rather than preventative strategies. Research has identified dozens of individual and community factors that place youth at risk of delinquency and criminality. As a society, we have not adequately addressed the causes of crime, including the role of poverty, health care, housing, education, family support, and neighborhood social networks. This report begins to document our current status on some of these dimensions in Illinois.

To recommend changes in specific government policies and service delivery systems that contribute to crime would be beyond the scope of this report and would overlap with the contribution of other 2040 committees. However, this report does restore attention to the importance of the community in working with the police and others to maintain order on a daily basis and establish norms regarding acceptable behavior.

By relying so heavily on the police for public safety, there is a lack of recognition that public order is maintained largely by the social structure of the community itself, not by the police. Neighborhoods with high levels of collective efficacy (i.e., ability to look out for one another) and cohesion are less prone to violence and disorder than neighborhoods where social disorder is prevalent. Therefore, we must think more creatively about ways to mobilize the community and get them more involved in setting norms and standards of appropriate behavior.

On a related note, there is a glaring need for public education to gain support for alternative approaches. For example, critics have argued that the United States is more violent than most countries because of high levels of exposure to violence and

trauma experienced by youth in certain primarily urban neighborhoods. This concern also extends to the prevalence of violence in the media, in entertainment, in sports and other aspects of our culture.

Therefore, more persuasive public education campaigns are needed in order to change norms about the acceptability of violence as a means of human interaction. Also, public education campaigns may help to change norms about the relative merit of punitive criminal justice solutions to public safety and public health problems.

The resources currently devoted to the non-violent drug offenses represent a powerful example of the failure of public policy. While new drug courts serve as important and encouraging incremental improvement in the system, the larger issues of drug enforcement remain. The costs of these enforcement efforts far outweigh any benefits and do not acknowledge the complexity of the drug problem in America.

In general, we encourage the pursuit of evidence-based, rational approaches that have a high probability of achieving justice and enhancing public safety. Too often, our choice of public safety strategies is driven by fear or by myths about the effectiveness of criminal justice rather than by evidence of “what works.” Both incremental and major changes to our criminal justice system are needed, based on scientific evidence. Also, given the complexity of the public safety issue, we recommend the development of multiagency partnerships that require agencies outside the criminal justice system to accept responsibility for policies and practices.

Chapter Three

RECOMMENDATIONS

To achieve this vision, Chicago area leaders need to take action between now and 2040 to:

Causes of Crime and Delinquency

1. Greatly reduce the rate of domestic violence, child abuse and other health risks to minors through a comprehensive best-practices approach to delinquency prevention that includes public education and government/community partnerships, and that prioritizes competency building for at-risk youth.

Needs of Victims

2. Implement the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ); target BARJ programs specifically to vulnerable populations (including minorities, women, youth, and elderly persons) and provide greater support for community-based implementations of BARJ for juveniles in both prevention and diversion.
3. Build community capacity to mobilize against sexual, domestic and gang violence, with counseling and advocacy services for sexual assault and domestic violence victims in every community, including immigrant and special needs populations.
4. Develop best practice treatment programs for adolescent and adult sex offenders both in prison and community-based aftercare; a network of accountability and treatment centers for men who batter, with services available in appropriate languages; sexual assault and dating violence/domestic violence education at every level of schooling; and evaluate program efficacy and recidivism.
5. Provide comprehensive 24-hour emergency medical, forensic, advocacy and counseling response for sexual assault survivors in regionalized sexual assault treatment centers located in hospital emergency rooms.
6. Ensure better consolidation of the medical and forensic response to sexual assault victims with skilled, trained sexual assault nurse examiners and forensic

personnel; ensure that evidence is analyzed in all cases; and reduce backlogs of rape kit evidence at crime labs.

7. Expand network of supervised visitation centers for families affected by domestic violence utilizing standards developed by federal Safe Havens Project.
8. Develop affordable housing for domestic violence victims and provide targeted job development, job readiness, training, placement and ongoing support for battered women to enable economic self-sufficiency.
9. Support comprehensive regional child advocacy centers for physically and sexually abused children.
10. Expand services to investigate abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of seniors.

Fairness and Equity in Law Enforcement

11. Guide law enforcement agencies with a comprehensive community-oriented approach to policing that encourages problem solving, information sharing, community engagement, and performance measurement.
12. Utilize the Internet and state-of-the-art information sharing technologies to enhance communication and trust between police and community members, share information and improve responsiveness and sensitivity.
13. Solicit feedback from citizens about police performance and equity issues.

Community Engagement and Capacity Building

14. Form reciprocal partnerships between criminal justice agencies, public health agencies, schools, businesses, community organizations, and other stakeholders to develop comprehensive strategic approaches to public safety, working across jurisdictional boundaries to maximize resources in crime prevention and intervention.

Non-Criminal Justice Solutions for Drug Offenders

15. Reduce drug abuse and addiction through legislation, policies and programs that reformulate the response through a public health rather than a criminal justice lens.

16. Create a comprehensive, evidence-based statewide alternative to incarceration plan to treat non-violent drug offenders.
17. Mandate individual and professional clinical assessment for all individuals entering the criminal justice system for non-violent drug offenses for substance abuse and mental health disorders by an independent entity, prior to sentencing.
18. Create new revenues to establish statewide alternatives to incarceration, increasing resources for probation and parole officers, training, smaller caseloads, individualized interventions and sanctions, more contact with drug offense probationers, and expansion of treatment.
19. Re-examine Illinois drug sentencing guidelines, reviewing the impact of particular sentencing enhancements like Drug Free Zones and of lowered drug weight and equivalent felony penalty class for possession and sales, and broadening probation eligibility for drug offenses.

Alternatives to Incarceration and Offender Reentry

20. Sharply reduce the number of people under correctional supervision through an integrated strategy of sentencing reform, a shift in funding toward community-level, treatment-based correctional alternatives, effective risk assessment, and removal of barriers to successful offender reentry.
21. Change public attitudes about drug enforcement to reflect a greater interest in harm reduction rather than drug enforcement.
22. Reduce prison populations by investing in mental health courts, following best practices established by the Council of State Governments Justice Center.
23. Reduce prison readmissions by implementing intermediate sanctions such as day reporting centers for offenders who break the rules of their release; using short-term residential facilities for persistent rule violators with substance abuse problems; and providing performance incentives that shorten terms of supervision for offenders who comply with their conditions and fulfill obligations.
24. Reduce length of stay by implementing risk-reduction credits that allow slightly earlier release for inmates who complete treatment and education programs designed to reduce recidivism; developing risk-based release instruments based on analysis of actual recidivism patterns to help releasing authorities decide who is ready for release; and providing sufficient program availability so inmates can complete requirements.

25. Remove legal and structural barriers faced by formerly incarcerated persons to employment, housing, and health and behavioral health services.
26. Create a seamless and coordinated system of support for the formerly incarcerated, with community-based service networks in high-impact regions, increased access to employment related training grants for smaller organizations, coordinated strategies for enhancing investments in reentry support services, and employment-related partnerships with private companies.
27. Address the social stigmas attached to a criminal record with community-based public awareness campaigns.

OBJECTIVES, ACTION PLANS AND STRATEGIES

In Chapter One, the crime and justice advisory committee and staff described in-depth the six major themes or issues that must be addressed. In Chapter Two, we outlined a new vision for 2040. And in this chapter, we have outlined 27 specific recommendations for how to reach the vision.

Now we will outline the objectives, action plans and strategies needed for each recommendation, and will recommend the lead agency or agencies that should be responsible for leading the efforts.

Because of the complexity of the public safety issue, it requires the cooperation and participation of many. We recommend the development of multiagency partnerships outside the criminal justice system to accept responsibility for policies, practices and solutions.

Causes of Crime and Delinquency Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION ONE: COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

Objective: The rate of domestic violence, child abuse and other health risks to minors will be greatly reduced through a comprehensive best-practices approach to delinquency prevention that includes public education and government/community partnerships, and that prioritizes competency building for at-risk youth.

Recommendation: Greatly reduce the rate of domestic violence, child abuse and other health risks to minors through a comprehensive best-practices approach to delinquency prevention that includes public education and government/community partnerships, and that prioritizes competency building for at-risk youth.

Action Plan/Strategies: The regional data provided indicate the following programming directions:

- **Increasing protective factors for youth:** Resiliency or protective factors encourage positive attitudes and behaviors and can act as protective assets against risk factors. Studies have suggested youth who are involved in their communities, have a non-parental positive adult role model, and a peer group that engages in constructive activities are less likely to be involved in criminal behaviors.⁸³ Studies have shown that the younger an individual is when s/he begins to engage in delinquent acts the more likely s/he is to continue such behaviors into adulthood.⁸⁴ Therefore, it is important to address risk and protective factors early in a youth's life and encourage the inclusion of the family, school and community. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) offers promising interventions that focus on preventing and reducing risk factors for youth:
 - Classroom and behavior management programs;
 - Multi-component classroom-based programs;
 - Social competence promotion curricula;
 - Conflict resolution and violence prevention curricula;
 - Bullying prevention;
 - Afterschool recreation, mentoring and school organization programs;
 - Comprehensive community interventions.

Lead agencies: Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission in conjunction with local juvenile justice planning councils in the Northeastern Illinois counties.

- **Reducing domestic violence:** See section *Addressing the Needs of Crime Victims* for more information about domestic violence.
- **Reducing child abuse and neglect:** Prevent Child Abuse America has designed a comprehensive strategy comprised of a variety of community-based programs to prevent child abuse. The strategy recommends:
 - Support programs and education for new parents;
 - Early and regular child and family screening and treatment;
 - Child care and day care opportunities for parents;
 - Therapeutic treatment for abused children;
 - Family support networks and crisis assistance;
 - Life skills training for children and young adults to aid in adulthood, parenting, and to prevent personal abuse;

- Public information and education on child abuse.

Lead agencies: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services should assemble an implementation plan including recommended program approaches, in conjunction with Child Protection Court Program Administrators and service providers in Northeastern Illinois counties.

- Researchers have found many benefits for children and youth, women, men and communities who are raised by parents in healthy families, compared to unhealthy families. The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families promotes the following two programs:
 - The *Healthy Marriage Initiative*, which helps couples gain greater access to marriage education services, on a voluntary basis, where they can acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain a healthy marriage.
 - The *Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Initiative* is to promote responsible fatherhood by funding programs that support healthy marriage activities, promote responsible parenting, and foster economic stability; and enable fathers to improve their relationships and reconnect with their children.

Lead agencies: Illinois Department of Human Services in conjunction with service providers and school administrators in Northeastern Illinois counties.

- **Improving school attendance and academic achievement:** The Education group of *GO TO 2040* will address this issue.
- **Improving economic conditions for children and their families:** The Economic Competitiveness group of *GO TO 2040* will address this issue.

Needs of Victims Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION TWO: SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE

Objective: Services will be specifically targeted to vulnerable populations through the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ), thereby balancing the needs of crime victims with those of the community and the offender.

Recommendation: Implement the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ); target BARJ programs specifically to vulnerable populations (including minorities, women, youth, and elderly persons) and provide greater support for

community-based implementations of BARJ for juveniles in both prevention and diversion.

Action Plan/Strategies: Based on testimony from leading experts in victim services in the state of Illinois, the following recommendations are offered for the improvement of services to victims of crime:

- Greater support for community-based implementation of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) for juveniles in both prevention and diversion, including best practices such as family conferencing and peacemaking circles. Ensure that BARJ programs do outreach to victims and communities, not just to the juvenile offender.
- Increased training and technical assistance for community members, police, prosecutors, and faith-based organizations in creating and implementing neighborhood BARJ programs. Evaluate community empowerment and investment to gauge the success of BARJ.

Lead agencies: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in conjunction with the Illinois Balanced and Restorative Justice Initiative and Northeastern Illinois county BARJ program administrators.

RECOMMENDATION THREE: COUNSELING, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Recommendation: Build community capacity to mobilize against sexual, domestic and gang violence, with counseling and advocacy services for sexual assault and domestic violence victims in every community, including immigrant and special needs populations. Provide school-based programs to prevent sexual assault and educate students about healthy relationships.

Action Plan/Strategies: Provide funding and support for this capacity building. Create collaborations between schools and universities to educate youth about how to prevent sexual assault and other forms of violence.

Lead agencies: University of Illinois at Chicago's Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Violence and schools in the region.

RECOMMENDATION FOUR: TREATMENT AND EDUCATION

Recommendation: Develop best practice treatment programs for adolescent and adult sex offenders both in prison and community-based aftercare; a network of accountability and treatment centers for men who batter, with services available in appropriate languages; sexual assault and dating violence/domestic violence education at every level of schooling; and evaluate program efficacy and recidivism.

RECOMMENDATIONS FIVE AND SIX: SURVIVORS' SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Recommendation: Provide comprehensive 24-hour emergency medical, forensic, advocacy and counseling response for sexual assault survivors in regionalized sexual assault treatment centers located in hospital emergency rooms.

Recommendation: Ensure better consolidation of the medical and forensic response to sexual assault victims with skilled, trained sexual assault nurse examiners and forensic personnel; ensure that evidence is analyzed in all cases; and reduce backlogs of rape kit evidence at crime labs.

Lead agencies: Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Corrections, and with sexual assault service providers, hospital and school administrators, police, and prosecutors in Northeastern Illinois counties.

RECOMMENDATIONS SEVEN AND EIGHT: SAFE HAVENS AND JOBS

Recommendation: Expand network of supervised visitation centers for families affected by domestic violence utilizing standards developed by federal Safe Havens Project.

Recommendation: Develop affordable housing for domestic violence victims and provide targeted job development, job readiness, training, placement and ongoing support for battered women to enable economic self-sufficiency.

Action Plan/Strategies:

- Expand and extend network of supervised visitation centers for families where domestic violence threatens the safety of family members, utilizing standards developed by federal Safe Havens Project;
- Provide targeted job development, job readiness, training, placement and ongoing support for battered women to enable economic self-sufficiency;
- Develop affordable housing for domestic violence victims after or in addition to emergency shelter.

Lead agencies: Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence in conjunction with Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence, federal Office of Victims of Crime, and service providers in Northeastern Illinois counties.

RECOMMENDATION NINE: SPECIAL CENTERS FOR CHILDREN

Recommendation: Support comprehensive regional child advocacy centers for physically and sexually abused children.

Action Plan/Strategy: At the centers, offer coordinated criminal justice and therapeutic response to the children and their families.

Lead agencies: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and federal Office of Victims of Crime in conjunction with child advocacy centers in Northeastern Illinois counties.

RECOMMENDATION TEN: ELDER ABUSE TEAM EXPANSION

Recommendation: Expand services to investigate abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of seniors.

Action Plan/Strategy: Law enforcement must develop partnerships with social services for anticipated increases in elder abuse as the population of the seven-county region gets older.

Lead agencies: Illinois Department of Aging in conjunction with service providers in Northeastern Illinois counties.

Fairness and Equity in Law Enforcement Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION ELEVEN: COMMUNITY PROBLEM-SOLVING

Recommendation: Guide law enforcement agencies with a comprehensive community-oriented approach to policing that encourages problem solving, information sharing, community engagement, and performance measurement.

Action Plan/Strategies:

- State-of-the-art information sharing technologies will be needed to enhance communication and trust between police and community members.
- Feedback will be sought from citizens to gauge satisfaction with police performance regarding effectiveness and equity concerns and progress on the implementation of community policing reforms. This will also provide a foundational index for measuring progress on a wide range of public safety dimensions, including victimization.
- The traditional measures of police accountability are inadequate for satisfying the new information requirements of community policing and for promoting a higher level of police performance.⁸⁵ These indicators of performance do not address the key factors that contribute to public safety and do not gauge in a meaningful way the level of satisfaction of the

community with the quality of police service. This problem can be remedied with internal and external strategies:

- Externally, we recommend establishment of independent community surveys to monitor public safety issues in the region on a biannual basis, including levels of victimization, fear of crime, quality of neighborhood life, and satisfaction with the services provided by the police and other criminal justice agents. Measuring victimization also generates an independent estimate of the level of crime and the public's willingness to report crime.
- Internally, there is much that law enforcement agencies can do to stimulate citizen participation in public safety. It has been argued by criminal justice policy analysts that because law enforcement agencies are assumed to be the experts on crime and public safety, and because they receive the lion's share of funding for these issues, they carry the biggest responsibility for educating and involving the community in prevention activities.⁸⁶

Some cities, like Chicago, have taken this responsibility seriously by institutionalizing community beat meetings and other activities.⁸⁷

Unfortunately, when the community becomes involved in problem solving, traditional police data systems are not capable of incorporating the new data that is generated. As Skogan notes,⁸⁸ the community's assessment of neighborhood problems that are viewed as precursors to crime (e.g., gang members loitering on street corners) often does not fit neatly into existing police data fields and, consequently, does not get recorded in any systematic and representative way. This suggests that new data systems are needed to capture the kinds of information that is important to community residents.

RECOMMENDATION TWELVE: INTERNET REPORTING

Objective: As we move toward the year 2040, it is important for justice agencies to leverage the available technologies. Police organizations can make better use of the Internet as a vehicle to satisfy the information needs of community policing and problem-solving models, and as a vehicle for improved responsiveness and sensitivity to the community.

Recommendation: Utilize the Internet and state-of-the-art information sharing technologies to enhance communication and trust between police and community members, share information and improve responsiveness and sensitivity.

Action Plans/Strategies: A viable model has been proposed by Rosenbaum for a Web-based initiative.

- Using the Internet for taking minor crime reports will allow police officers to devote less time to filling out reports, thus freeing them to address more pressing issues.
- It will also allow police departments to build a more representative database quickly and move toward the goal of a “paperless” agency.
- By providing citizens with the ability to report criminal activity confidentially, an avenue will be opened that has previously been denied to those residents who fear retaliation.
- Online reporting and anonymous tips may lead to improved clearance rates for violent crime, notably in neighborhoods where visible cooperation with police is problematic.
- For departments that have institutionalized community policing programs (e.g., community beat meetings, neighborhood watch, police citizen academies, school programs), the department can use the Internet to improve the efficiency of communication with participants and extend the program’s reach.

Beyond maintaining pertinent information about citizen meetings (e.g., times, locations, agendas, guest speakers), the Web site might serve as a communication center for beat officers and residents, providing a virtual community to complement the physical community fostered through beat meetings.

Chat rooms could also be created to allow for synchronous communication and would provide the opportunity for police officials to hold “virtual meetings” at the neighborhood or city level.

Listserves could be used to alert citizens about immediate threats to their community, acting as an initial means of notification in emergency situations.

- Criminologists have clearly documented that public safety is not achieved by anti-crime measures alone, but rather is the product of a larger array of personal, social, environmental, economic and political forces that impinge on neighborhoods.⁸⁹ Given this reality, police agencies should consider using the Internet to link residents with a wide range of resources to assist them in solving personal problems and thereby reduce their risk of offending or being victimized. The public services of the Web page would extend beyond the boundaries of traditional policing efforts, providing links to Web sites that offer information on social, educational, health and public safety services.

RECOMMENDATION THIRTEEN: CITIZEN MONITORING

Recommendation: Solicit feedback from citizens about police performance and equity issues.

Action Plans/Strategies:

- Web survey data could be collected from a sample of households that are randomly selected from each block or each police beat. This mechanism would allow police to measure perceptions of fear and safety, preventive behavior and levels of citizen involvement; to gauge citizens' perceptions of police effectiveness, equity and efficiency; to evaluate police anti-crime interventions; and to present opportunities for field new ideas and suggestions from citizens. The Chicago Internet Project tested this concept in 50 neighborhoods and found it to be viable.⁹⁰
- Neighborhood Profile Report: Creating a two-way flow of information is critical. If citizens take the time to participate in a Web reporting system, the police should provide some analysis and feedback on the information supplied. Neighborhood profile reports might include crime information and citizen monitoring results, including summary reports of the data collected from citizens' Web surveys. This feedback might include neighborhood or beat profiles and performance summaries for both police and citizens. Sharing information via neighborhood profile reports should increase "organizational transparency," thereby fostering greater trust among local residents and increasing their desire to collaborate. CLEARPath—a joint Web-based initiative between the Chicago Police Department and Chicago residents, illustrates the potential for this type of virtual communication.⁹¹

Lead agencies: Illinois State Police in conjunction with federal Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS), the University of Illinois at Chicago's Center for Research in Law and Justice, and law enforcement agencies in Northeastern Illinois counties.

Community Engagement and Capacity Building Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION FOURTEEN: MULTIAGENCY ALLIANCES

Recommendation: Form reciprocal partnerships between criminal justice agencies, public health agencies, schools, businesses, community organizations and other stakeholders to develop comprehensive strategic approaches to public safety, working across jurisdictional boundaries to maximize resources in crime prevention and intervention.

Action Plan/Strategies: A subsequent cross-site analysis identified a range of factors that seemed to contribute to successful implementation and impact of the Weed and Seed initiative.⁹² These findings should be viewed as useful guidelines for implementation of a wide range of future community capacity/coalition building efforts in the seven-county Northeastern Illinois region.

In terms of community variables, successful sites were those with:

- A pre-existing network of community organizations and community leaders;
- A limited presence of deep-seated, intractable crime problems, such as gangs;
- Proximity to commercial areas with potential for economic development;
- More stable, less transient neighborhood populations.

In terms of program design, the evaluation concluded that the proper mix and sequencing of “weeding” and “seeding” activities are important predictors of success. Specifically, successful sites were more likely than their counterparts to:

- Build community trust by implementing “seeding” activities at the same time as “weeding”;
- Sustain “weeding” activities to prevent the resumption of criminal activity;
- Combine high-level interagency task forces with street-level police presence as an anti-drug-trafficking strategy;
- Maintain an active prosecutorial role at both the local and federal levels.

The main lesson here is that, contrary to the widespread belief that “weeding” activity is a one-shot event that must precede “seeding” activity, successful sites appreciate the need for simultaneous and sustained activity on both fronts.

The efficient use of limited resources to produce maximum impact is another important design consideration. The Weed and Seed findings suggest that greater success is achieved when the funds are concentrated on a narrowly defined (smaller) target population and when administrators are able to channel and leverage other funds for the initiative. Thus, programs that are able to increase the dosage or intensity of the intervention are likely to have greater success than programs that focus on large target areas with no supplemental funds or resources applied to the initiative.

Finally, the Weed and Seed evaluation suggests that leadership styles and partnership dynamics are important for success. Weed and Seed, like many other public safety partnerships and coalitions, is a coalition of separate organizations with different objectives and constituents, and therefore, being able to work together smoothly toward a common goal is essential. The results suggest successful sites were characterized by:

- Leadership that encouraged cooperation rather than confrontation;

- A “bottom-up” approach to identifying problems and solutions;
- Extra efforts to build capacity among local organizations.

Giving community organizations and leaders an equal role in developing and implementing the Weed and Seed initiative can be very difficult for law enforcement agencies, but appears to be a sound long-term strategy for building healthy partnerships and creating self-regulating communities.

Lead agencies: Sheriffs’ departments and state’s attorneys’ offices in Northeastern Illinois counties should seek assistance from the federal Weed and Seed Office to form partnerships with service providers and develop a comprehensive strategy for crime prevention and intervention. Additional endorsement should be obtained from the Illinois Sheriffs Association and Illinois Prosecutors Association.

Non-Criminal Justice Solutions for Drug Offenders Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION FIFTEEN: PUBLIC HEALTH FOCUS

Recommendation: Reduce drug abuse and addiction through legislation, policies and programs that reformulate the response through a public health rather as a criminal justice lens.

Action Plan/Strategies: Although drug treatment alternatives exist at various stages of the justice process, a number of states have enacted more sweeping reform of their sentencing structure to provide stronger mandates for drug treatment and promote alternatives to incarceration, including complete diversion from prison to treatment. The Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy recently laid the blueprint for such reform in Illinois and presented police recommendations for diversion program codification that are incorporated in Recommendations Sixteen, Seventeen, Eighteen and Nineteen.

RECOMMENDATION SIXTEEN: INCARCERATION ALTERNATIVE

Recommendation: Create a comprehensive evidence-based statewide alternative to incarceration plan to treat non-violent drug offenders.

- Build upon existing codified infrastructure to construct a larger capacity for a statewide diversion from incarceration program. Continue to utilize TASC for offender assessment, case management, and communication between

treatment providers and the criminal justice system. Expand use of the drug school model.

Lead agencies: Treatment Alternatives to Safe Communities (TASC) in conjunction with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, and probation program managers in Northeastern Illinois counties.

- All systems, including criminal justice and treatment, need to be evaluated to understand the current capacity and level of needed expansion. This evaluation will guide the development of the diversion program and will help all systems to be brought to scale in Illinois.

Lead agencies: The Illinois Department of Human Services in conjunction with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

- Illinois must follow research-based interventions for the drug offending population.
 - Use an independent entity that is responsible for individual assessment, creating individual treatment plans and any alterations during diversion process, court recommendation and case management.
 - The treatment plan should be based on the assessment outcomes. The plan should address the individual's needs, including type of services to be received and the length of program involvement.

Lead agencies: Treatment Alternatives to Safe Communities (TASC) in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

- The alternatives to incarceration program must have sanctions for program violations and accountability measures.
 - The court should intervene when an individual has no contact with the treatment center within 30 days of the first appointment date.
 - Individuals who actively participate in a diversion program should not be sent to prison or jail for a single drug possession violation involving small drug quantities that occurs while undergoing treatment.
 - Individuals who actively participate in a diversion program should not be sent to prison or jail for a single positive urine analysis, rather clinical intervention and treatment plan alteration should occur.

Lead agency: The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts in conjunction with the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association members in Northeastern Illinois.

- After successful completion of the treatment plan and all other court and/or probation requirements, individuals should receive consideration for expunction of the case.

Lead agencies: Illinois Circuit Court Clerks Association in conjunction with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

- The diversion program should be evaluated by an independent agency, such as a public university, to track program implementation, cost savings and the number of people served under the new legislation.

Lead agency: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

RECOMMENDATION SEVENTEEN: CLINICAL ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: Mandate individual and professional clinical assessment for all individuals entering the criminal justice system for non-violent drug offenses for substance abuse and mental health disorders by an independent entity, prior to sentencing.

- Screening for co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders is a priority.
- Transportation and childcare needs should be evaluated as these are shown to be barriers toward successful program completion.

Lead agencies: Treatment Alternatives to Safe Communities (TASC) in conjunction with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, and probation program managers in Northeastern Illinois counties.

RECOMMENDATION EIGHTEEN: REVENUE EXPANSION

Recommendation: Create new revenues to establish statewide alternatives to incarceration, increasing resources for probation and parole officers, training, smaller caseloads, individualized interventions and sanctions, more contact with drug offense probationers, and expansion of treatment.

- Participating individuals should be given a monetary assessment. Individuals who have money to pay for the treatment should do so, and this money should be diverted into the diversion fund.
- Monies that are not spent directly on treatment services should be allocated to prevention and drug education.

Lead agencies: The Illinois Probation and Court Services Association in conjunction with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority should

monitor availability of federal grant funds from U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

RECOMMENDATION NINETEEN: DRUG SENTENCING RE-EXAMINATION

Recommendation: Re-examine Illinois drug sentencing guidelines, reviewing the impact of particular sentencing enhancements like Drug Free Zones and of lowered drug weight and equivalent felony penalty class for possession and sales, and broadening probation eligibility for drug offenses.

- Drug Free Zone laws effectively include the majority of the city of Chicago and other large urban areas in the region.
- Consider lowering the number of feet required to reflect urban populations or limiting these provisions to areas directly adjacent to the affected areas (schools, public housing).

Lead agencies: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in conjunction with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Metropolis 2020 and the CLEAR Commission.

Alternatives to Incarceration and Offender Reentry Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION TWENTY: SENTENCING REFORM

Recommendation: Sharply reduce the number of people under correctional supervision through an integrated strategy of sentencing reform, a shift in funding toward community-level, treatment-based correctional alternatives, effective risk assessment, and removal of barriers to successful offender reentry.

Action Plan/Strategies: The PEW Center on the States, in its report, *One in 100: Behind Bars in America*, describes the factors associated with prison growth, and provides recommendations for controlling crime and prison populations that serve as a template for an Illinois action plan for the seven-county Northeastern Illinois region.⁹³ PEW policy analysts stress that states that want to protect public safety while slowing the growth of their prison populations have two general options: they can divert a greater number of low-risk offenders from prison or they can reduce the length of time that the lowest risk offenders stay behind bars. They also make the point that both options require strong community corrections programs to ensure that offenders in the community remain crime and drug-free. To reduce prison admissions on the front end, three strategies are recommended:

- Drug courts that break the cycle of crime and addiction with frequent drug tests, a continuum of treatment services and increasing penalties for violations.
- Targeted penalty changes that steer selected low-risk offenders to community corrections programs or modify mandatory minimum sentences.
- Sentencing guidelines that allow states to decide as a matter of policy which types of offenders should go to prison and which are appropriate for community corrections.

Lead agencies: The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, in conjunction with the Illinois Drug Court Association, the CLEAR Commission, and Metropolis 2020.

RECOMMENDATION TWENTY-ONE: EMPHASIS ON HARM REDUCTION

Recommendation: Change public attitudes about drug enforcement to reflect a greater interest in harm reduction rather than drug enforcement.

RECOMMENDATION TWENTY-TWO: MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

Recommendation: Reduce prison populations by investing in mental health courts, following best practices established by the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

Action Plan/Strategies: In response to the growing number of offenders with mental disorders, it is important to adhere to the guidelines set in place by the Council of State Governments Justice Center:⁹⁴

- Eligibility criteria address public safety and consider a community's treatment capacity, in addition to the availability of alternatives to pretrial detention for defendants with mental illness.
- Participants are identified, referred and accepted into mental health courts and linked to services as quickly as possible.
- Terms of participation are clear, promote public safety, facilitate the defendant's engagement in treatment, are individualized, and provide positive legal outcomes for those who complete the program successfully.
- Defendants fully understand program requirements before agreeing to participate or, if they are not capable, allowing consultation with an advocate.
- Mental health courts use treatment and services in the community that are evidence-based.

- Health and legal information should be shared in a way that protects participants' confidentiality.
- All criminal justice and mental health staff receive specialized ongoing training.
- Criminal justice and mental health staff collaboratively monitor participants' adherence to court conditions, offer graduated incentives and sanctions, and modify treatment as necessary.
- Data is collected and analyzed to demonstrate the impact of the court.

Lead agencies: Illinois Department of Mental Health and Illinois Mental Health Court Association, in conjunction with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and treatment providers in Northeastern Illinois counties.

RECOMMENDATION TWENTY-THREE: INTERMEDIATE SANCTIONS

Recommendation: Reduce prison readmissions by implementing intermediate sanctions such as day reporting centers for offenders who break the rules of their release; short-term residential facilities for persistent rule violators with substance abuse problems; and performance incentives that shorten terms of supervision for offenders who comply with their conditions and fulfill obligations.

Lead agencies: The Illinois Department of Corrections, in conjunction with the Illinois Parole Board, and the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association members in Northeastern Illinois.

RECOMMENDATION TWENTY-FOUR: RISK REDUCTION CREDITS

Recommendation: Reduce length of stay by implementing risk-reduction credits that allow slightly earlier release for inmates who complete treatment and education programs designed to reduce recidivism; developing risk-based release instruments based on analysis of actual recidivism patterns to help releasing authorities decide who is ready for release; and providing sufficient program availability so inmates can complete requirements.

Lead agency: The Illinois Department of Corrections.

RECOMMENDATION TWENTY-FIVE: BARRIERS ELIMINATION

Recommendation: Remove legal and structural barriers faced by formerly incarcerated persons to employment, housing, and health and behavioral health services.

Action Plans/Strategies:

- Expand the use of existing tools for rehabilitated ex-offenders; establish best practice standards for employers to appropriately interpret criminal records; develop equitable legal standards for background checks; change public agencies' administrative policies to allow some level of employment of individuals with criminal records.

Lead agencies: The Department of Corrections, Illinois State Police, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

- Increase affordable housing stock with various incentives; increase access to affordable housing for the formerly incarcerated; provide temporary rental stipends; increase housing vouchers for the formerly incarcerated.

Lead agencies: The Department of Corrections, Illinois Parole Board, Illinois Department of Human Services in conjunction with Illinois Legislature.

- Better coordinate support services for those with mental health diagnoses. Acknowledge the risk of relapse in substance abuse treatment and expand the "good conduct credit provisions" for those incarcerated more than once and who are in substance abuse treatment. Establish the formerly incarcerated as priority populations in Medicaid, especially those with mental health issues.

Lead agencies: The Department of Corrections, Illinois Parole Board, Illinois Department of Mental Health in conjunction with Illinois Legislature.

RECOMMENDATION TWENTY-SIX: PRISON POPULATION REDUCTION

Recommendation: Create a seamless and coordinated system of support for the formerly incarcerated, with community-based service networks in high-impact regions, increased access to employment related training grants for smaller organizations, coordinated strategies for enhancing investments in reentry support services, and employment-related partnerships with private companies.

Action Plans/Strategies:

- Provide training to service providers in effectively addressing this population's needs and develop a coordinated and uniform system of supports and reporting standards among service providers to help build community capacity to help the formerly incarcerated.

Lead agencies: The Department of Corrections, Illinois Parole Board.

- Use community-based networks to help foster long-term community buy-in, community support, and sustained change. Coordinate community groups,

faith-based organizations, and others working independently to maximize efforts, impact, and support for the formerly incarcerated.

Lead agencies: Illinois Department of Human Services.

- Smaller organizations should benefit from training grants and training through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and TIF-Works for community-based organizations working with the formerly incarcerated.

Lead agency: Illinois Department of Human Services.

- Coordinated reentry services should further leverage existing federal, state, and local investments and aggressively develop new funding sources to **expand reentry support services, including funds from social service programs** (such as WIA, Medicaid and food stamps).

Lead agency: Illinois Department of Corrections.

- Develop partnerships with private companies to help secure community reinvestment and that support specific reentry initiatives, particularly employment-related initiatives.

Lead agency: Illinois Department of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION TWENTY-SEVEN: SOCIAL STIGMA FOCUS

Recommendation: Address the social stigmas attached to a criminal record with community-based public awareness campaigns.

Action Plan/Strategy: Increase public awareness about the importance of providing a second chance to formerly incarcerated persons who are seeking support to move away from crime and drugs and toward honest work and citizenship. This should include success stories about those who made positive contributions.

Lead agency: Illinois Department of Corrections

ENDNOTES

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