



ILLINOIS EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

Strategic Plan 2024-2029



ILLINOIS EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2029

SUBMITTED TO THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) under the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides federal funding for states to administer criminal justice-related programs, practices, or initiatives. State Administering Agencies (SAAs) are required to submit a five-year strategic plan to guide the implementation of fair, just, evidence-based, and effective policies and practices. BJA strongly encourages each state to engage a comprehensive group of criminal justice system stakeholders for input in the strategic planning process. Stakeholders may include local governments and representatives of an array of criminal justice system sectors, including judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, and corrections personnel as well as providers of indigent defense services, victim services, juvenile justice delinquency prevention programs, community corrections, and reentry services.

The SAA for JAG funds in Illinois is the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA). ICJIA's Research and Analysis Unit led the strategic planning process to guide JAG programming from 2024 to 2029. Staff led the following to create the strategic plan:

- Presented the JAG strategic planning process to the ICJIA Board on December 8, 2022, and established the JAG Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee was a temporary committee consisting of ICJIA board members and experts in the field. They volunteered to provide input and guidance on the strategic plan, including participating in listening sessions and approving the final JAG priorities and strategic plan report.
- Hosted three one-and-a-half-hour listening sessions with JAG Ad Hoc Committee members and other high-level experts in various fields pertinent to JAG funding.
- Created and administered a survey informed by the listening sessions to gather additional input from a broader group of stakeholders who were not present in the listening sessions, including those from the judiciary, victim services, public health, behavioral health, lived experience, and juvenile justice.
- Analyzed crime and justice system data in Illinois and summarized related literature to compile data-driven evidence and relevant literature supporting the suggestions from listening sessions and survey participants.
- Reviewed and incorporated past Illinois JAG funding and other grant programs, both state and federal, that address JAG programming areas.
- Presented the emerging themes to the JAG Ad Hoc Committee on December 5, 2023, to review and refine the priorities that will guide funding and ICJIA's research agenda.

What we learned from these processes led to the state's JAG priorities for 2024-2029 and formed the basis for this JAG strategic plan.

- Priority 1: Address mental health and substance use disorders for justice-involved persons.

- Priority 2: Reduce violent crime and firearm violence in Illinois communities.
- Priority 3: Support and protect victims and witnesses of crime.
- Priority 4: Support the state in criminal justice planning, data analysis, evaluation, and identification of evidence-based and informed practices.
- Priority 5: Update and improve technology and infrastructures for better data capture and integration.
- Priority 6: Support public defense services.
- Priority 7: Support housing needs for justice-involved persons.

The plan was approved by the ICJIA Board in June 2024, and will be submitted to BJA, as well as shared with the public on the ICJIA website.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

JAG FUNDING ADMINISTRATION

As the SAA, ICJIA is responsible for comprehensive criminal justice planning and policy development for the State of Illinois. It responds to the annual JAG program solicitation released by BJA. The JAG program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of criminal justice areas.

JAG PRIORITY AREAS

JAG funding may be used to support the priority areas listed below. The first three areas reflect the major components of the criminal justice system—law enforcement, courts, and corrections. The remaining components are examples of programs, practices, or initiatives that can be supported at the state or local level.

- Law enforcement.
- Prosecution and court.
- Corrections and community corrections, including reentry.
- Prevention and education.
- Drug treatment and enforcement.
- Improvements in planning, evaluation, and technology.
- Initiatives related to crime victims and witnesses.
- Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral health programs and crisis intervention teams.
- Implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives, such as mental health courts, drug courts, veterans' courts, and extreme risk protection order programs.

Each year, BJA includes areas of emphasis in the JAG program solicitation. It encourages state and local award recipients to address targeted areas by coordinating with federal law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders, including communities most impacted by crime and violence. The JAG areas of emphasis for FY 2023 include:

- Advancing justice system reform efforts.
- Furthering racial equity and support for underserved communities.
- Preventing and combating hate crimes.
- Focusing on strategies for crime and violence reduction.
- Addressing community-based violence intervention (CVI) approaches.

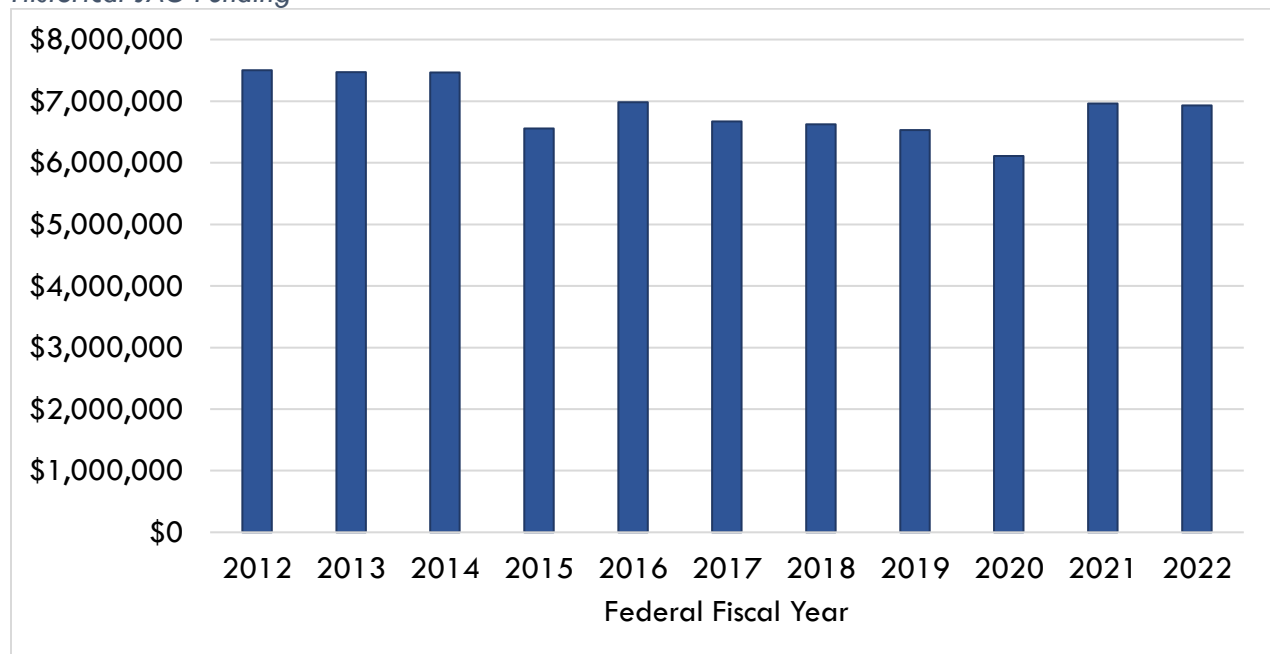
JAG funding may be used for any of these areas of emphasis in addition to the priority areas listed above. States and local entities are not required to allocate JAG funds for each priority area. Rather JAG funds are intended to help states leverage other funds by either complementing those monies or by addressing funding gaps.

HISTORICAL USE OF JAG FUNDING

BJA administers the JAG program, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) calculates the award amounts. States and localities receive funds based on their resident population as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau and based on violent crime data reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. BJA requires that a portion of JAG funds must support local units of government according to a statutorily set formula. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023, ICJIA administered 72% of JAG funds to local units of government, a portion of which had to go to local units of government ineligible for direct funding from BJA. The remaining 28% was split between administrative funds issued to ICJIA to support grant-making (10%) and funds given to state agencies (18%).

JAG funding administered by ICJIA has decreased over time. Illinois This JAG funding peaked at \$14.3 million dollars in 2005. Since then, the amount available per year has declined and was \$6.9 million in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 (Figure 1).

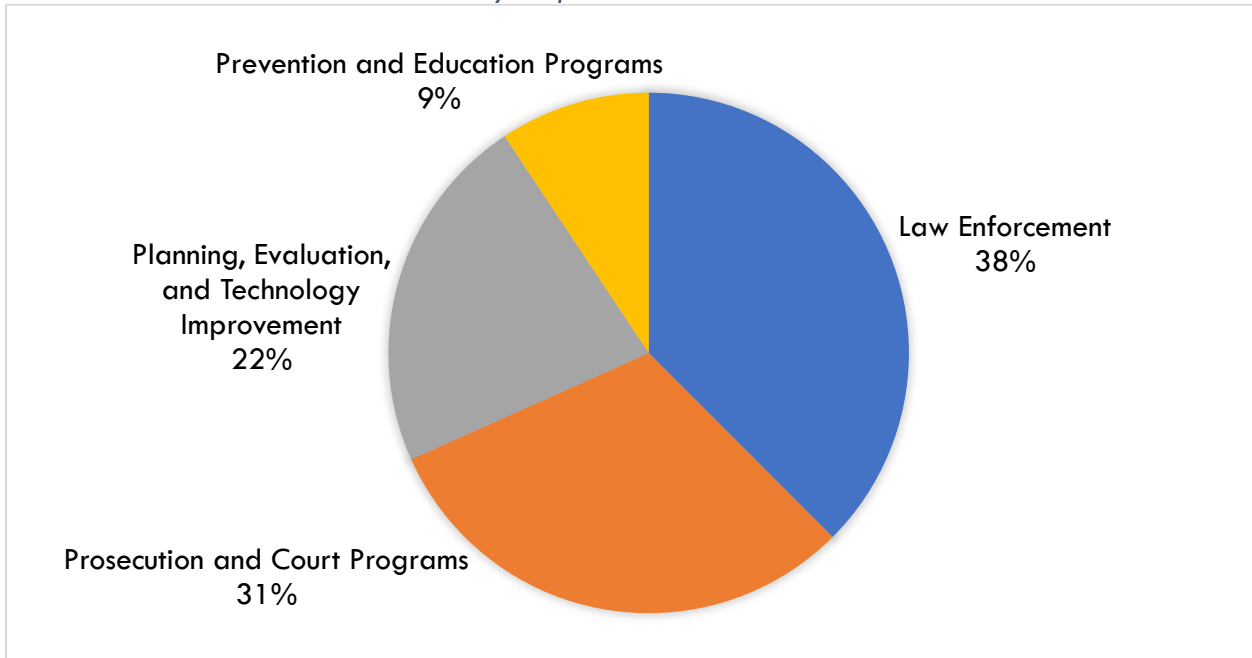
Figure 1
Historical JAG Funding



Note. The data came from the ICJIA Federal and State Grants Unit. The federal fiscal year is October 1 of one calendar year through September 30 of the next calendar year.

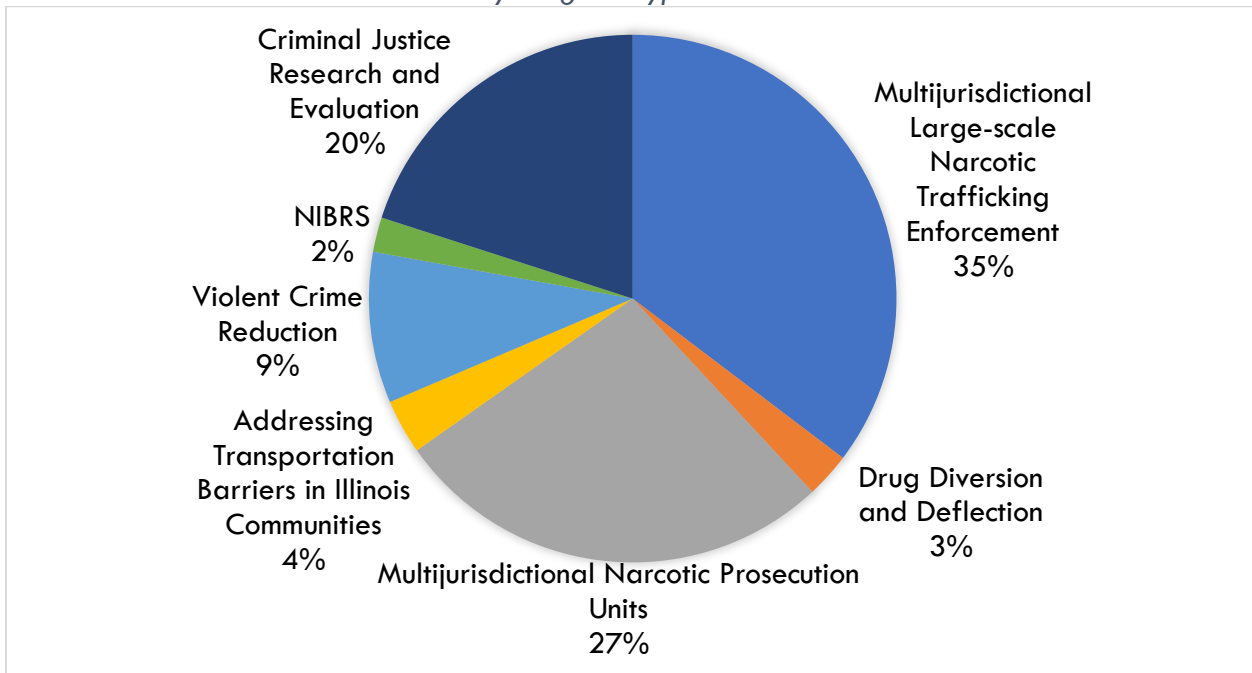
JAG grants administered by ICJIA for FFY 2019 and 2020 supported programs in various purpose areas, including law enforcement programs (38%); prosecution and court programs (31%); planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs (22%); and prevention and education programs (9%) (Figure 2). Within those JAG purpose areas, funding variously supported programs that incorporated violent crime reduction, transportation, drug enforcement task forces, prosecution initiatives, court diversion and law enforcement deflection, and research and evaluation (Figure 3).

Figure 2
 FFY 2019 and FFY 2020 JAG Grants by Purpose Area



Note. The data source was ICJIA Federal and State Grants Unit.

Figure 3
 FFY 2019 and FFY 2020 JAG Grants by Program Type



Note. The data source was ICJIA Federal and State Grants Unit.

OTHER GRANT FUNDING

As the SAA for public safety and criminal justice-related funds, ICJIA manages several federal and state grant programs for Illinois. Many of these funds also support JAG priority areas, including new grant programs that are in the initial stages of implementation, such as the State Crisis Intervention Program. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023, 25 ICJIA staff members processed 767 individual grants under 13 federal and 16 state programs, with \$208.4 million in disbursements for the fiscal year. In comparison, Illinois' FFY22 JAG award was \$6.9 million, and in SFY23, ICJIA disbursed \$4.4 million in federal JAG funds to 32 individual grant programs.

To establish the 2024-2029 priorities, the JAG Ad Hoc Committee considered other sources of federal and state grant funding that could also address JAG purpose areas. The Committee identified, as well, other funding sources in which JAG purpose areas were limited. This analysis revealed 2024-2029 JAG priorities that could be targeted toward areas that are less adequately resourced through other grant programs. For example, in addition to JAG, ICJIA administered the following state and federal grant programs in SFY23.

Federal Grant Programs

- Building State Technology Capacity.
- Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Fund.
- Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program.
- Improving Reentry Education and Employment National Criminal History Improvement.
- National Criminal History Improvement Program.
- Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Program.
- Prison Rape Elimination Act.
- Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment.
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- VAWA Sexual Assault Services Program.
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

State Grant Programs

- Adult Redeploy.
- American Rescue Plan.
- Bullying Prevention Grant Program.
- Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention.
- Community Law Enforcement Partnership for Deflection and Substance Use Disorder Treatment.
- Death Penalty Abolition Fund.
- Deflection and Substance Use Disorder Treatment.
- Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council.

- Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3)
- Safe from the Start
- Violence Prevention and Reduction

In addition to the state grant programs listed, ICJIA administered funds for a co-responder pilot program, as well as programs focused on violence prevention, deferred prosecution, trauma recovery, and services for those with criminal records. Please see our State Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report for more details (Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 2023).

PRIOR STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2019, the previous JAG Ad Hoc Committee met to determine funding priorities for the JAG strategic plan covering the years 2019 to 2024 (Alderden et al., 2019). The former strategic plan remains in place until the new plan is submitted to BJA in 2024. In the former plan, the following were outlined as priority areas, and Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) were released to support programming in these areas:

REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME IN ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES

Both domestic violence and firearm-related crime were highlighted as primary areas to be addressed with JAG funding. Specifically, funding was to go to evidence-informed violent crime reduction initiatives targeting the underlying factors leading to violence. The initiatives could include law enforcement programs, prosecution and court programs, corrections, reentry, and drug enforcement programs.

ADDRESS TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED CLIENTS

According to justice stakeholders, justice-involved persons in both rural and urban communities encountered transportation barriers to accessing services, attending court, and maintaining jobs. To address this concern, JAG funding gave priority to established evidence-informed programs whose clients had identified transportation challenges.

REDUCE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER AND AVAILABILITY IN ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES

During the previous Ad Hoc Committee, substance misuse and mental health needs remained an issue for Illinois stakeholders. In particular, opioid misuse and overdose were considered growing concerns to public health officials. Programs supporting a reduction in substance use disorder and availability were considered priorities.

IMPLEMENT NATIONAL INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM IN ILLINOIS

At the time of the previous Ad Hoc Committee, detailed police data were considered highly important to criminal justice trend analysis, evaluation, and other research efforts. Yet few Illinois police departments had implemented the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS is a national crime reporting program designed to replace summary Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR), offering detailed case-specific information. Funding to support the Illinois State Police in implementing NIBRS across the state was considered a funding priority.

SUPPORT ICJIA TO ASSIST ILLINOIS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

The JAG program is one of ICJIA's main sources of funding for its research and evaluation efforts. The JAG Ad Hoc Committee felt funding should continue to support ICJIA's analysis of criminal justice data, program evaluation, and research.

SECTION 3: DATA COLLECTION

OVERVIEW

For this planning cycle, ICJIA staff conducted listening sessions with the Ad Hoc Committee members followed by surveying additional stakeholders for their input. These methods were employed, in part, to accord with other states' JAG strategic planning processes. The other states included California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. Of the 11, eight states used a survey, and four used focus groups or information-gathering meetings.

Stakeholder feedback was then supplemented with an analysis of data trends and literature. This information subsequently went to our Federal and State Grants Unit, which then examined other grant resources and JAG requirements. ICJIA staff then brought the derived themes to the Ad Hoc Committee to set priorities.



LISTENING SESSIONS

PARTICIPANTS

Listening session attendees included 22 criminal justice and social science practitioners, representing several areas of expertise.

Table 1

Participants

Characteristic	Number of participants
Agency Sector	
Academia	3
Corrections	3
Courts/Sentencing	5
Criminal justice policy	1
Human services/Behavioral health	2
Law enforcement	3
Lived experience	1
Public health	2
Victims	2

Note. There were 22 participants. Lived experience is someone with prior justice involvement.

All members of the Ad Hoc Committee were invited to attend one of the three listening sessions. The following committee members, or designees, attended a listening session:

1. Candice Adams, Circuit Court Clerk for DuPage County
2. Stephen Chung (Deputy Chief), Office of Constitutional Policing Reform Management, Chicago Police Department
3. Vickii Coffey, Associate Professor in the College of Health and Human Services, Governor State University
4. Judith Cook, Director of the Center on Mental Health Services, Research, and Policy, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Illinois at Chicago
5. Jennifer Epstein, Deputy Director of the Office of Policy, Planning, and Statistics, Illinois Department of Public Health
6. Garien Gatewood, Director of the Illinois Justice Project
7. Keith Grant, Senior Supervising Attorney with the Lake County Public Defender's Office, President of the Illinois Public Defender Association
8. Latoya Hughes, Acting Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections
9. Dan Hunt, Probation Services Division, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
10. Brendan Kelly, Director of the Illinois State Police
11. Scott Main, Assistant Director of the Illinois Juvenile Offender Resource Center, State Appellate Defender's Office
12. Maryann Mason, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Northwestern University
13. Chloe McMurray, Chief Capacity Building Officer for the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
14. Dave Olson, ICJIA Chair and Co-Director of Center for Criminal Justice, Professor at Loyola University
15. Christopher Patterson, Assistant Secretary for the Illinois Department of Human Services
16. Wasim Said (Sgt.), Office of Constitutional Policing Reform Management, Chicago Police Department
17. Kathy Saltmarsh, Executive Director of the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council
18. Jessica Shaw, Assistant Professor of Community and Applied Development Psychology, University of Illinois at Chicago
19. Daniel Sheline (Sgt.), Lake County Sheriff's Office, President of the Illinois Correctional Association
20. MoDena Stinnette, Professor at National Louis University, Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization
21. Jennifer Vollen-Katz, Executive Director of the John Howard Association
22. Carrie Ward, Chief Executive Officer for the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault

PROCEDURE

ICJIA held three one-and-a-half-hour virtual listening sessions through WebEx conferencing software. Since most participants were ICJIA board members, the listening sessions met the definition of a public body per the Open Meetings Act. Per the Act, the meeting was officially called to order, roll calls were taken, and public input was allowed at the end of each session. The meeting was held virtually, and a quorum was achieved through video [see 5 ILCS 120/7(e)].

The sessions were held on April 17, April 18, and April 19, 2023. One ICJIA research staff member moderated the listening sessions while another took notes. The meetings were recorded through WebEx with permission from participants. During the sessions, the ICJIA moderator provided a link in the chat for more information about JAG, the prior Illinois JAG strategic plan from 2019-2024, and JAG grants administered by ICJIA. Following the sessions, ICJIA staff transcribed the audio in Microsoft Word. The staff developed codes and analyzed the listening session data using Lumivero NVivo 12 qualitative data software. This project did not constitute research; therefore, IRB approval was not required.

QUESTIONS

The moderator asked the following five open-ended questions during the listening sessions.

1. What are the top criminal justice-related concerns in need of funding/resources?
2. Based on the concerns identified, what are the weaknesses or challenges in Illinois for addressing the concerns?
3. What are the strengths of the state to tackle those concerns?
4. What do you think about previous JAG funding areas?
5. Can you discuss data collection, evaluation, and research of those concerns?

The listening session findings are shared in Section 4 of this report.

SURVEY

The survey questions were based on the listening session responses. The goal was to gather feedback from additional stakeholders who were from agencies and sectors not represented in the listening sessions.

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Table 2 displays the number of survey respondents by sector and agency coverage.

Table 2

Survey Respondents

Characteristic	Number of respondents
Agency Sector	
Behavioral health	3
Courts	3
Housing	1
Juvenile justice	1
Lived experience	1
Public health	1
Victims	2
Violence prevention	1
Agency Coverage	
Local	7
Statewide	6

Note. Total sample size was 13 respondents. Lived experience is someone with prior justice involvement.

PROCEDURE

ICJIA staff created and administered the online survey using Qualtrics survey software. The 13 survey questions were formulated using input shared by stakeholders in the listening sessions (Appendix A). ICJIA research staff employed a selective sampling method for survey recruitment to ensure the justice-related sectors not present in listening sessions would be represented in the formation of the 2024-2029 JAG priorities. The online survey was accessible via invitation, and a unique link was distributed to 33 individuals. The survey opened on August 1 and closed on August 15, 2024. During the open period, two reminder emails were sent (8/8 and 8/14) to encourage participation. In total, 13 individuals completed the survey, a response rate of 39.4%. The results were analyzed using Microsoft Excel and are discussed in Section 4.

DATA LIMITATIONS

We sought to hear from many justice-related sectors across the state. We were successful in garnering feedback from 45 individuals representing 13 sectors, many of whom represented agencies covering the entire state. We chose a small sample strategy of key experts, focusing less on generalizability but on insights from sectors and agency heads with expertise and

specialization. We sought to maximize the quality of participants who were subject matter experts over increasing the sample size.

SECTION 4: STAKEHOLDER FINDINGS

LISTENING SESSION FINDINGS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE-RELATED CONCERNS

The listening session participants discussed areas requiring additional funding. Participants highlighted the need for stronger data analytics and collection, particularly in areas such as firearm violence prevention, general crime, and substance use. Stakeholders emphasized that accurate and robust data are crucial for making effective decisions and addressing current issues. They also noted that research can only be effective if individuals engage with the findings.

For example, one participant said:

I'll throw one thing out quick about evaluation. I think that the Authority could do more. And maybe you're using some of this money to facilitate it, but getting research presented and in front of the people that can actually make use of it. And engage in a discussion. I think it [is] great that reports get posted to the website for a lot of the subject matter. I think having some mechanism where information can be presented at some of the National Association conferences in Illinois to get in front of state's attorneys or judges or probation departments...present to them directly... what it suggests and engage in a discussion.

Correspondingly, a lack of coordination among state agencies as a significant weakness was identified by participants. They stressed the importance of stakeholders coming together, understanding each other's work, and fostering collaboration as a result. They expressed a desire for innovative and efficient coordination mechanisms to bridge the gaps between different departments and to ensure a more cohesive approach.

Participants also discussed the need for increased funding and resources for mental health services, particularly for incarcerated individuals. In addition, trauma recovery centers and the need for increased resources for victims and witnesses were mentioned:

One of the biggest things that we see in our programs across the state is a dire need of better mental health procedures, mental health advocacy, and mental health agencies. The level of, or perhaps the severity of, the mental health needs in our programs have really, really, really skyrocketed in the last few years.

Affordable housing to reduce recidivism and slow the revolving door of criminal justice contact for formerly incarcerated individuals was a critical resource mentioned by stakeholders. They stressed the importance of improving access to suitable housing to support successful reintegration into society in both urban and rural areas. As a prime focus, they highlighted as potential subpopulations women who care for children post-release and women with mental or physical disabilities.

One participant shared:

I was looking at [Abraham] Maslow's hierarchy of needs and sort of like everything that we can be doing to hit those bottom two rungs, at least, of the pyramid to be sort of stable housing [and] food. Like [the] basic needs. If we can meet those, then we can put people in a better position to receive whatever programs are available.

Firearm prevention efforts were deemed necessary to tackle illegal firearm possession and reduce violence throughout the state. As ways to address this issue, participants suggested implementing or revisiting gun buyback programs and preventing gun trafficking.

One participant said:

It seems like today, the conversation is more based on how to stop crime in the first place, and specifically, on firearms. My own personal opinion... based on a 2023 analysis of what Illinois looks like and what people feel is the biggest problem, or could use the most help, it would be with firearms, right? And gun violence. And how to change that.

On the topic of buyback programs and gun violence prevention, one listening session member shared:

The revision of our gun buyback program, for example, is one program we would like to get the Illinois State Police involved. One of the issues that we see with our gun buyback programs is... people just are going in to turn in weapons in our own community. And sometimes they shy away from that because they can be identified by members of their community. Also, we see influxes of weapons coming in from the broader metro area from the suburbs and other states. If we can align ourselves with the state police and have them join us in some of these gun buyback programs [it would create] a broader jurisdiction to start getting some of these illegal guns off the street, or even legal guns, that could potentially be used in crimes at a later time. So that's one area that we're looking at for general gun violence reduction programs.

CHALLENGES FOR ADDRESSING CONCERNS

The lack of funding for public defenders' offices was mentioned as a significant concern. Stakeholders emphasized that, without proper funding, the criminal justice system cannot function equitably and efficiently. They called for increased resources to ensure adequate legal representation and a fair justice system.

One participant explained it this way:

In over 32 years [of my time] as an assistant public defender, our office has obtained one grant that's helped our staff... That's it... We need to find some way to make changes that result in the meaningful ability of the system to process a criminal case and provide meaningful representation to the accused so that we can reach finality...If the public defense side is functioning, it holds up the whole process.

Another participant shared:

There is a real lack of well-trained attorneys coming into this area. So, I would say in looking back on the strategic plan that you provided... to the extent that we could put, as a priority, some training and resources to support... defenders in less urban counties I think that would go a long way. Promoting fairness in the system and training, because I can say when I came out of law school... I just didn't know how to practice law. So, a good training program that familiarizes attorneys with not only their clients' needs, but also

Outdated technology and data systems were cited as a current weakness. Many agencies in Illinois use paper-based processes and struggle with information sharing and integration. Participants highlighted the need for modernizing the infrastructure and adopting technological advancements to improve efficiency and communication between agencies.

Listening session participants noted the following data issues:

For the data we do have, we are not very good at sharing across our silos to make the most of it. And so, I know it's been on the agenda for a while at the state level, but really continuing to work on, how do we make data available for the highest and best use?

It's the integration of the data that I think... creates the biggest problems. You can't... look at ...[which] people ...[who] are getting behavioral health services are involved in the criminal justice system, ... receive family-based services, and are enrolled in Medicaid, for example. And some states can do that. So, integrating what we're already collecting, in addition to making it available, I think is important.

I think one of the challenges is the inability of various systems to talk amongst each other. As it relates to technology many of the systems in the State service the same individual, but we're not, we don't have the technological capacities at this point, at various stages, to communicate about the same person. And kind of provide that seamless coordination of services or transition of information.

STRENGTHS FOR ADDRESSING CONCERNS

On the strengths of Illinois, participants praised the state's use of data-driven approaches for distributing funding to programs in need. They also acknowledged the state's emphasis on evidence-based models and research, which in their view can promote effective decision-making and help avoid duplicating mistakes.

A participant stated the following:

I would say within the last five to ten years [Illinois] has begun to recognize the importance of evidence-based models and that... there's no need to reinvent the wheel. One was... in behavioral health. It was known for doing its own thing. And many times, that involved taking bits and pieces of other models that were evidence-based and combining them in ways that weren't effective. I think now there's an understanding that we need to draw on the science in... these areas and try, if they meet people's needs, to stay with evidence-based models, adapt them culturally and in a number of other ways, so that they're appropriate for the populations they're being used with.

The increase in funding from Illinois cannabis tax revenue was viewed positively, as it allowed for the allocation of resources to historically underfunded programs, such as victim services. Illinois passed the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (CRTA) during the 2019 legislative session. This Act (410 ILCS 705) created the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) program. For this program, 25% of the state tax revenues from adult-use cannabis are to be invested in addressing the harm caused to communities by economic disinvestment, violence, and the war on drugs. Participants expressed satisfaction with the availability of this new revenue stream.

PRIOR ILLINOIS JAG FUNDING

Regarding previous JAG funding, participants discussed the challenges of evaluating multi-jurisdictional drug trafficking efforts. They emphasized the importance of data collection, evaluation, and research in informing evidence-based practices. They also highlighted the need to invest in modernizing data systems and in building evaluation capacity.

For instance, one participant recounted:

When the JAG funding was created in the late 80's, the whole emphasis was increased coordination across agencies. So, Illinois, like most states, allocated money towards these drug task forces because that was seen as the biggest gap. I could sell drugs in Evanston, and Chicago wouldn't know anything about it. Right? Back then, the money that I got was in excess of \$20 million dollars. And money's gone down, a lot. The share that...task forces get may have remained the same, but the sheer dollar amount is still a lot lower than it was... The biggest challenge for many communities... is no existing capacity to do any type of investigation or enforcement. Beyond just traditional patrol... they don't have the resources.

CONCLUSION

The 2023 listening sessions identified emerging areas of interest for consideration for the 2024-2029 strategic plan. Overall, the weaknesses in Illinois revolved around a need for further data analysis, a lack of coordination between agencies, and outdated technology for sharing data. Listening session members shared that Illinois' needs included mental health services, trauma recovery, affordable housing for justice-involved persons, firearm prevention, funding for public defense, transparency, community coalitions, and recidivism reduction. Strengths mentioned were Illinois' data-driven approach to funding and its emphasis on research and evidence-based practices. The listening sessions provided themes to guide the subsequent survey and foster discussions among the Ad Hoc Committee to generate Illinois JAG priorities through 2029.

SURVEY FINDINGS

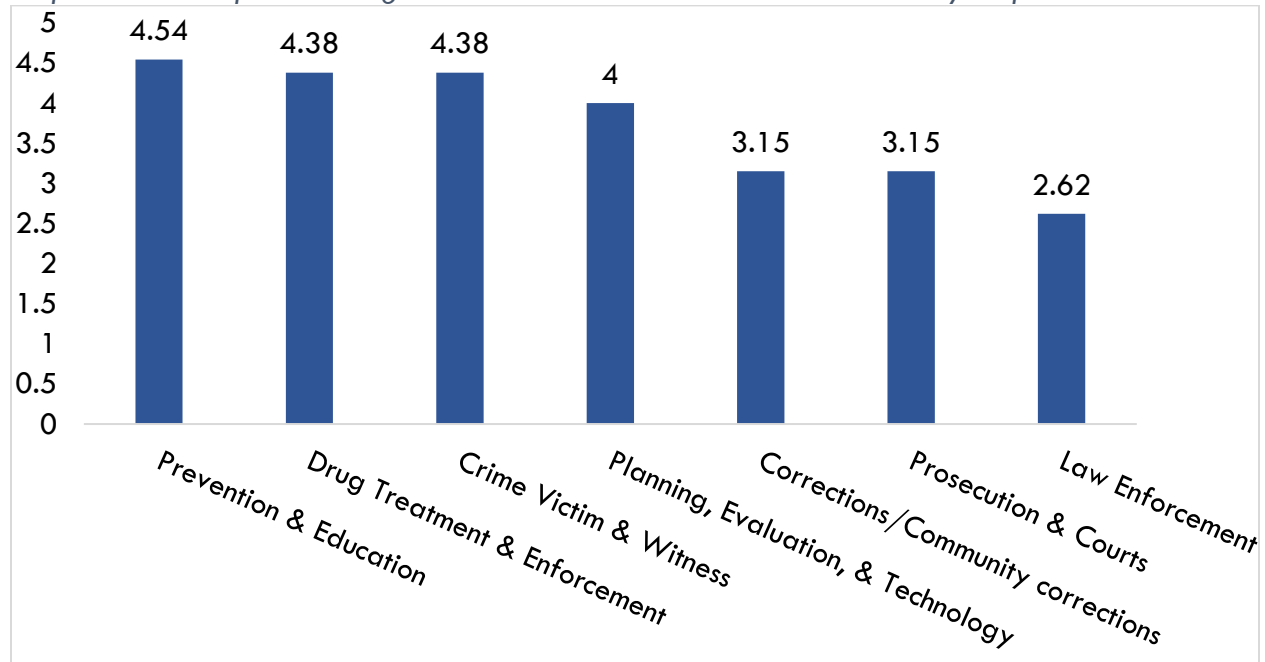
Survey respondents shared their input on JAG purpose areas, priorities, challenges and strengths, and data and evaluation (Appendix A). The priorities listed in the survey emerged from the listening session findings that were shared in the previous section of the report.

JAG PURPOSE AREAS

Survey respondents were provided with the JAG purpose areas and asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed that these areas should be priorities in Illinois. Responses indicated strong agreement that prevention and education; drug treatment and enforcement; crime victim and witness initiatives; and planning, evaluation, and technology should be priorities (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Purpose Area: Respondents' Agreement on Priorities for Use of JAG Funds by Purpose Area

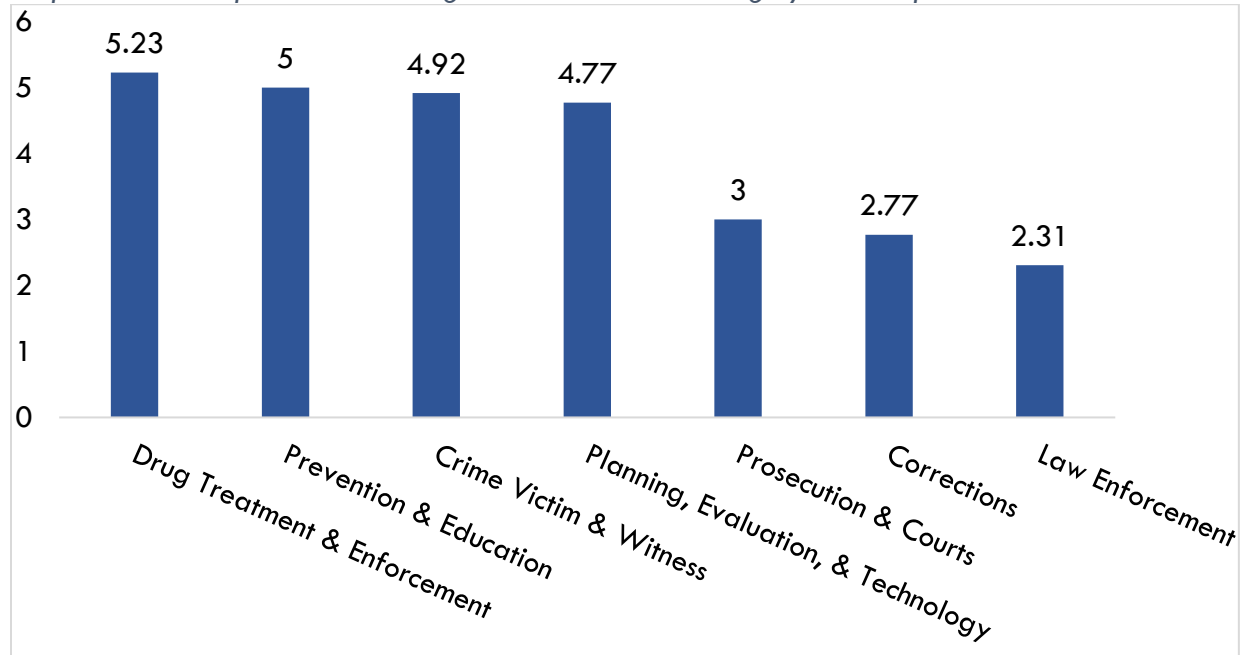


Note. The sample size was 13 respondents to an online survey. Means were based on Likert-scale levels of agreement from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

Participants also ranked the priorities by purpose area. When asked this way, the top four priorities remained similar, just in a slightly different order (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Purpose Area: Respondents' Ranking of Priorities for Funding by JAG Purpose Area



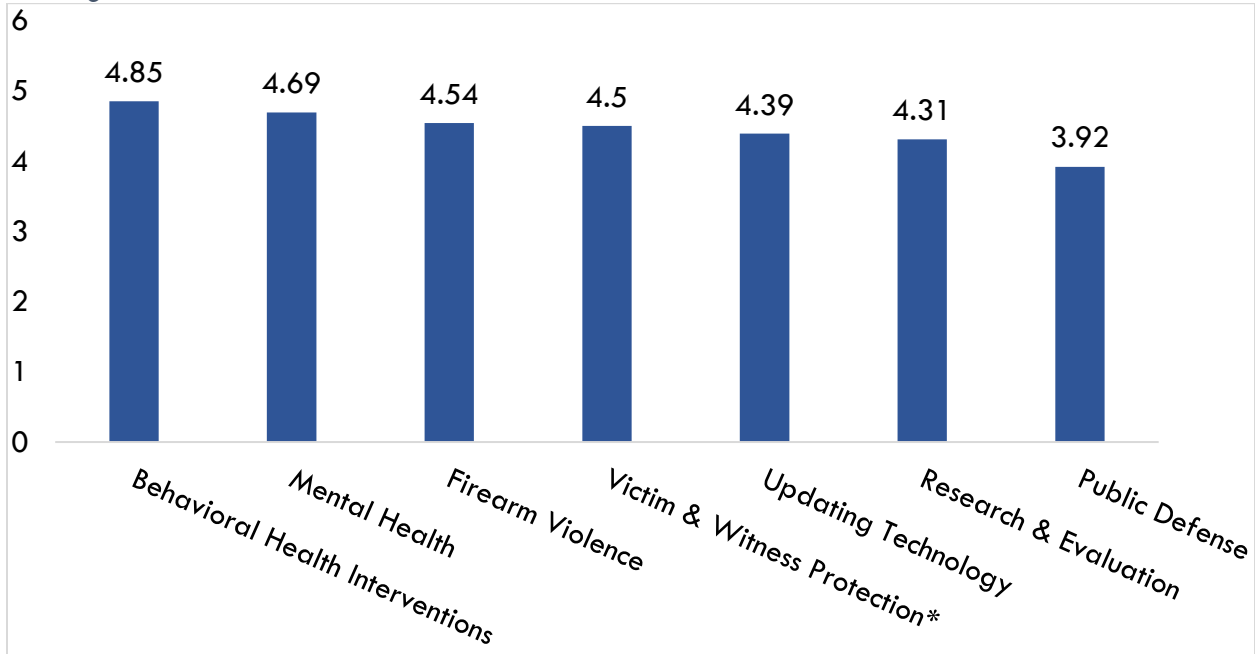
Note. Sample size was 13 respondents to an online survey. Mean rankings were based on responses on ranking (1 = highest priority, 7= lowest priority), which were reverse coded. The higher the score, the higher the priority. The Corrections purpose area included community corrections/probation.

PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE JAG FUNDING

We asked respondents to note agreement on concerns that were identified during the listening sessions as described above (Figure 6). Overall, survey respondents supported the priority concerns of the listening sessions. When asked about each priority individually, they gave the strongest support to behavioral health, mental health, and firearm violence.

Figure 6

Priority Concerns: Respondents' Agreement on Concerns that Should be a Priority for Future JAG Funding in Illinois



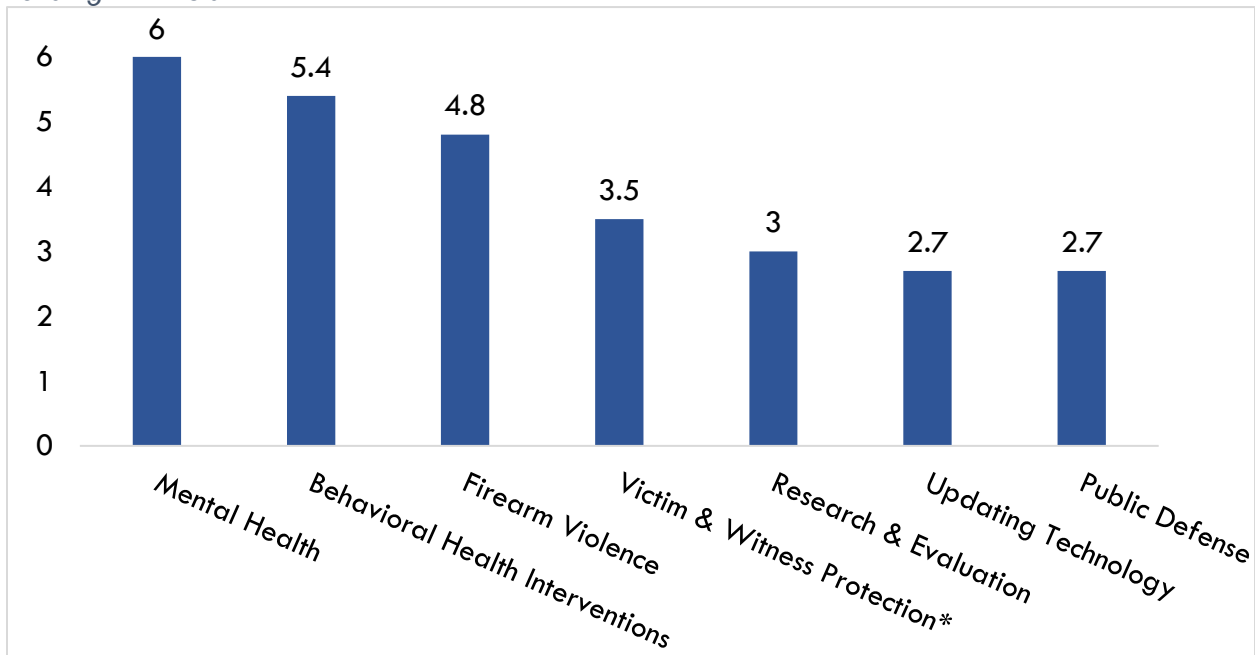
Note. Sample size was 13 respondents to an online survey unless otherwise noted. Means were based on agreement from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

*Sample size was 12 for this item.

Participants were also asked to rank the concerns from highest to lowest priority. When asked this way, there was general support for the same top four priorities (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Priority Concerns: Respondents' Ranking of Concerns that Should be a Priority for Future JAG Funding in Illinois



Note. Sample size was 13 respondents to an online survey unless otherwise noted. Mean rankings were based on responses on ranking (1 = highest priority, 7= lowest priority), which reverse coded. The higher the score, the higher the priority.

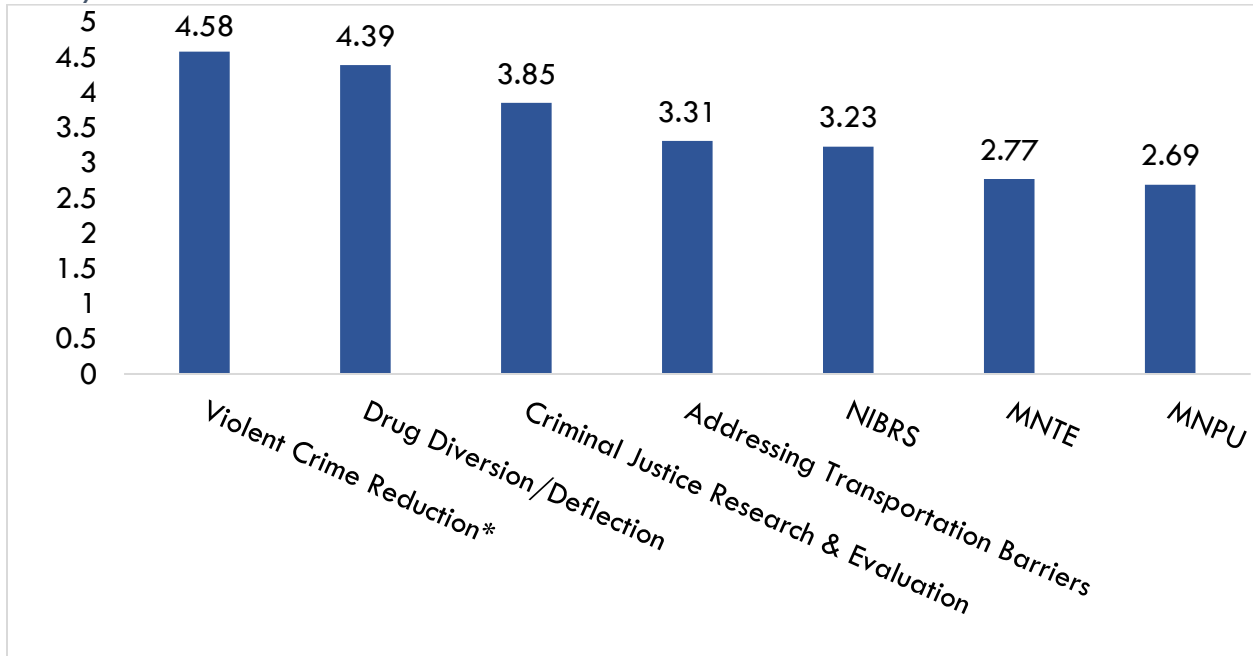
*Sample size was 12 for this item.

PRIOR JAG FUNDING

Respondents indicated the extent to which they agreed with the prior JAG priorities for Illinois that were established from the last strategic planning process. There was general support for many of the prior program areas (Figure 8).

Figure 8

Prior Funding: Respondents' Agreement on Prior Illinois JAG Program Areas that Should Remain a Priority



Note. Sample size was 13 respondents to an online survey unless otherwise noted. Means were based on respondents' evaluation of priority topics on Likert scale levels of agreement from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). NIBRS was the National Incident Based Reporting System. MNTE was Multijurisdictional Narcotic Trafficking Enforcement. MNPU was Multijurisdictional Narcotic Prosecution Units.

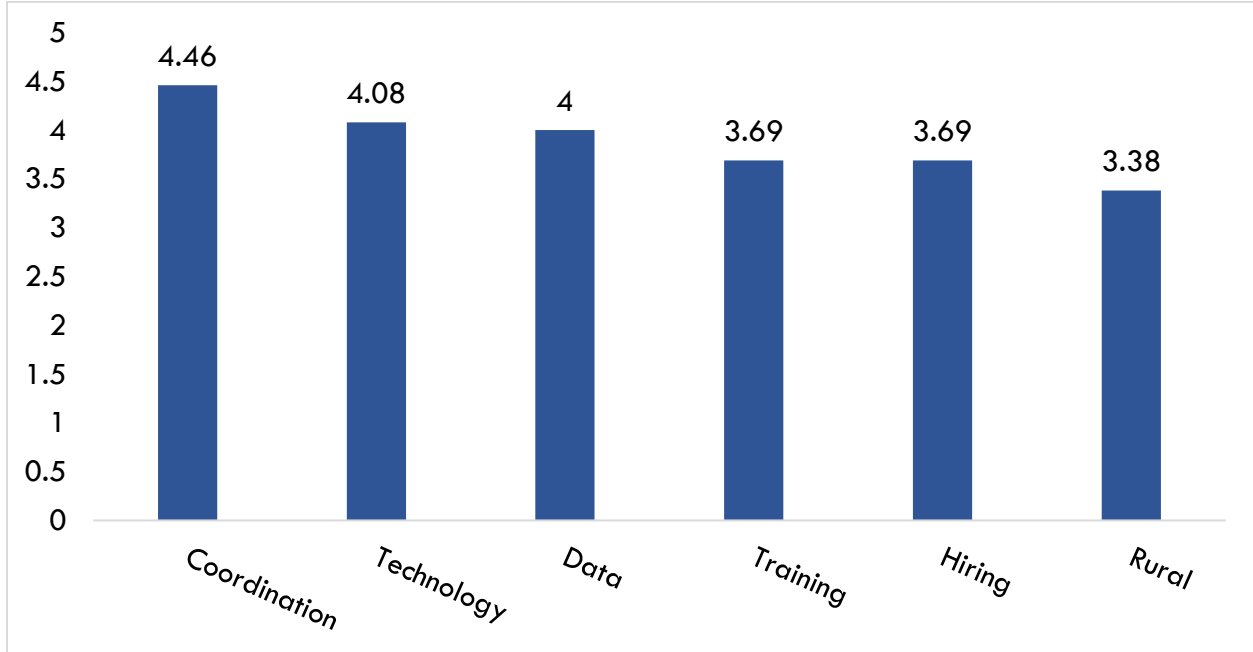
*Sample size was 12.

STATE CHALLENGES

Respondents noted the extent to which they agreed with weaknesses or challenges associated with the state being able to address its concerns. There was a general agreement that coordination, technology, and data were weaknesses or challenges (Figure 9).

Figure 9

Respondents' Agreement on Illinois' Weaknesses or Challenges in Illinois to Address Concerns



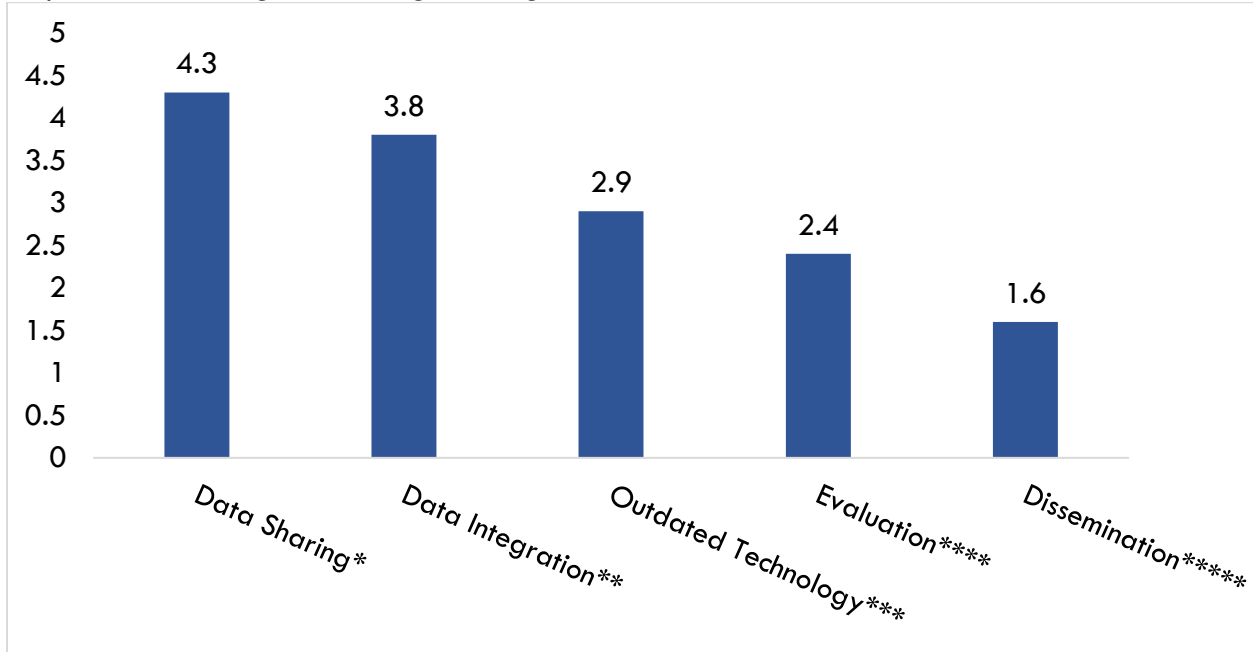
Note. The sample size was 13 respondents to an online survey. Means were based on Likert scale levels of agreement from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Coordination was lack of coordination among agencies; Technology was older technology infrastructure; Data was lack of proper data and data analysis; Training was lack of proper training for employees; Hiring was cumbersome hiring process; Rural was lack of attention towards rural communities.

DATA AND RESEARCH

Respondents ranked the challenges that were related to data, evaluation, and research (Figure 10). There was general agreement that data sharing and integration were challenges.

Figure 10

Respondents' Ranking on Challenges Facing Data Collection, Evaluation, and Research



Note. Sample size was 10 respondents to an online survey. Means were based on respondents' ranking of priorities on a scale from 1 (lowest priority) to 5 (highest priority). Data sharing was a lack of data sharing across state and local agencies; Data Integration was the use of local data systems instead of integrated statewide data; Outdated Technology was the use of out-of-date technology; Evaluation was the need for more evaluation of innovative programs; and Dissemination was the need for improved dissemination of research findings.

Eight respondents indicated they used an automated data system, and it was easy to access information. Four replied that their data were not automated, and one person did not know.

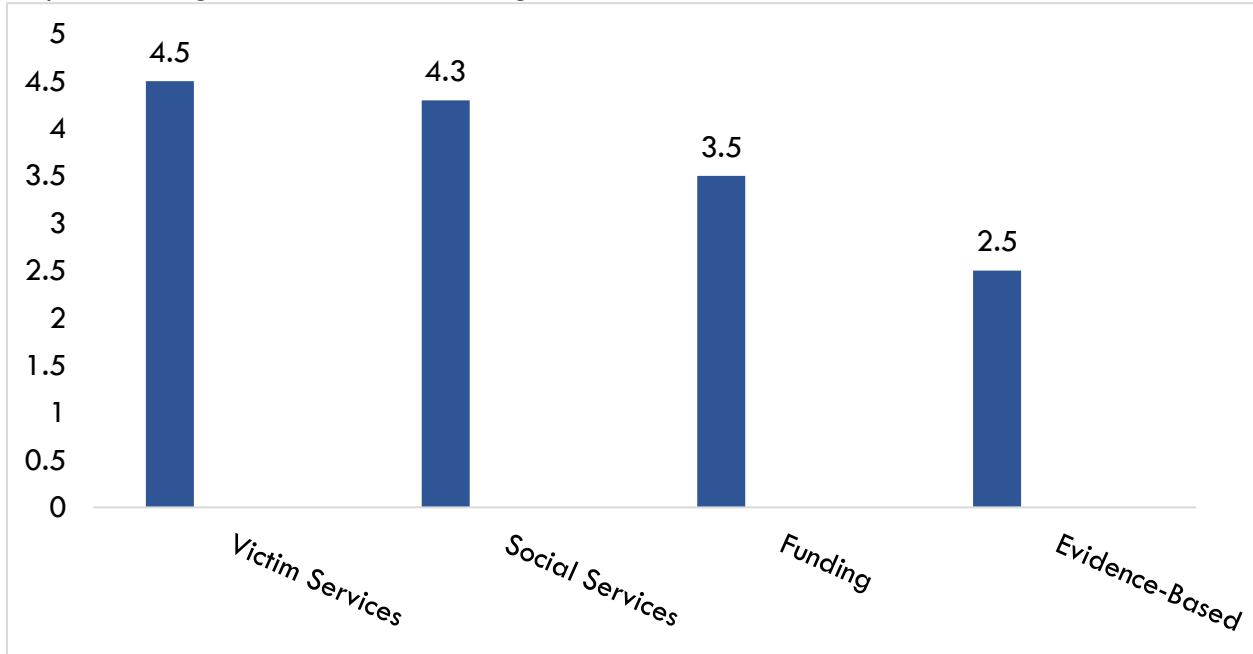
The use of evidence-based practices for program and service delivery is a JAG priority. A program is "evidence-based" when the program's effectiveness has been demonstrated and obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. When asked about the use of evidence-based practices, 11 respondents said they used them rarely; two used them often. One final comment was, "Appreciate the much more public-facing approach ICJIA is now taking!"

STATE STRENGTHS

Respondents indicated the extent to which they agreed about the strengths of Illinois in being able to address state concerns. There was general agreement that victim services, social services, and funding were strengths (Figure 11).

Figure 11

Respondents' Agreement on Illinois' Strengths in Illinois to Address Concerns



Note. The sample size was 13 respondents to an online survey. Means were based on Likert scale levels of agreement from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Victim Services was the separation of victim services and the criminal legal system; Social Services was strong social services support.; Funding was the increased funding from cannabis legalization/other forms of taxes; Evidence-based was the use of evidence-based models.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

On the survey, we asked an open-ended question, Are there other state or local criminal justice needs or priorities you would recommend to ICJIA? Additional priorities mentioned included the need for housing, transportation, police training, firearm control, and family and child advocacy.

- Expanding housing and transportation resources for persons with behavioral health issues in the criminal justice system.
- Social services and help with housing costs for the re-entry population for the first 24-36 months.
- Better training of police.
- Firearms control- reduce guns on the street.
- Creation of Family Justice Centers, or multi-agency collaborations for DV and SA in IL.
- CACs [Chicago Advocacy Centers] are underfunded.
- Ensuring interventions are done with a culturally sensitive, historically grounded, economic, and racial justice lens. Often, a lot of interventions focus on punitive responses instead of

restorative, treatment, and public health responses. This is often because those who encounter the criminal legal system, often as victims and defendants, tend to be low-income, people of color, or both. There are systems of inequity rooted in biased approaches and beliefs, including some beliefs that presume the criminality of people of color instead of interrogating the history of racism and oppression that has allowed us to be where we are today. Centering community responses that are rooted in a belief in our interconnectedness versus an inaccurate belief that someone is simply bad or criminal when they may be displaying the impacts of trauma, being racialized, and lack of opportunities and support.

- Community violence intervention and prevention strategies should be more overtly addressed with these funds.
- IL needs to re-instate a state technical assistance lead. A well-regarded Illinois-based technical assistance organization that can help us locally matters as it's hard to determine who to contact for such support and help.

PRELIMINARY THEMES

As mentioned, the listening sessions provided the foundation for determining priorities for JAG. The issues that arose from these sessions formed the survey, in part. The survey was a tool to align priorities within established JAG purpose areas and to determine which previously supported JAG purpose areas should continue to be supported and which issues within them should be given high priority. The survey feedback and listening session responses were aligned in their respective rankings of the purpose areas that encapsulated the issues, the issues deemed important within the areas, and the rankings of the issues. That is, most emphasized issues fell into the same purpose areas with the same high rankings. The challenges that ranked highly in the survey also aligned with those identified in the listening sessions. They centered on data availability, technology needs, and collaboration. In analyzing stakeholder feedback from the three listening sessions and the surveys, we identified five major themes for consideration:

- Address mental health and substance use disorders for justice-involved persons.
- Reduce violent crime and firearm violence in Illinois communities.
- Support and protect victims and witnesses of crime.
- Support the state in criminal justice planning, data analysis, evaluation, dissemination, and identification of evidence-based and informed practices.
- Update and improve technology and infrastructures for better data capture and integration.

Considerations were given to additional issues, as well:

- Provide housing support and reentry needs.
- Commit resources for public defense.

Staff further explored these themes by analyzing criminal justice data and reviewing supportive literature. The following section details the data analysis related to these themes and current criminal justice-related trends in Illinois.

SECTION 5: SUPPORTIVE DATA ANALYSES

DATA OVERVIEW

Using the feedback captured in the listening sessions, the online survey, and emerging data trends in the field, ICJIA staff analyzed crime and justice system data in Illinois to strengthen and contextualize findings from stakeholder input. While the purpose was to determine if the data seemed to suggest quantitative support for a given issue, or conversely provoke further dialogue, much of the data was limited in terms of bolstering or refuting those issues that were highlighted. However, our data analysis also identified noteworthy increases or decreases and revealed if the data seem to support or refute the identified issues.

To conduct this analysis, staff researchers identified available data and their limitations. Data typically provided in annual totals from state agencies were graphed for trend analysis. Sources included annual data from the Illinois State Police, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, among others. This analysis provided a broad overview of the system to identify any noteworthy increases or decreases. Data limitations were then considered. To supplement state data, analysts examined relevant research and other data sources, such as InfoNet, NIBRS, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Criminal History Record Information (CHRI), the U.S. Census, and the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS). Taken together, the available data generally supported stakeholder feedback. This Section provides an overview of recent criminal justice system data that coincide with the identified themes:

- Mental health and substance use disorders for justice-involved persons.
- Violent crime and firearm-related crime.
- Victims and witnesses of crime.
- Court and corrections, including public defender support and reentry housing needs.

MAJOR FACTORS INFLUENCING DATA AND INTERPRETATION

Before proceeding with topic-specific coverage of relevant data, it is necessary to acknowledge three over-arching factors that substantially impacted data and their interpretation during the past four years.

1. **The COVID-19 pandemic:** Illinois operated under a stay-at-home order from March to May 2020, with major changes to operations through 2021. These impacted every aspect of crime and criminal justice, such that most data show dramatic differences in 2020.
2. **National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) transition:** In 2021, the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) and federal UCR programs transitioned from summary reporting to incident-based reporting. However, many law enforcement agencies continued to report summary data in 2021 and 2022. This has the following impacts on available crime data:

- A. **NIBRS includes details** relevant to JAG priority areas, such as additional offenses, victims, use of firearms, and suspicion of substance use during offense. These were not previously available for crime reports except via local police departments.
 - B. **NIBRS total offense counts are generally higher** than past summary reports. This is due to more crime types being reported and all offenses per incident/arrest being counted, which result in higher counts.
 - C. **2021 and 2022 NIBRS data are usable but incomplete.** In 2022, agencies with jurisdictions covering approximately 79% of the Illinois population reported into NIBRS, compared to 96% coverage when including summary reports as well as NIBRS. In 2021, NIBRS covered 67% of the population; however, many agencies submitted NIBRS for only part of the year (and summary statistics for the remainder). ICJIA has not yet found an official or satisfactory conversion method to present Illinois NIBRS data in a common format with summary report data, consequently, incomplete NIBRS data is used.
3. **Legislative changes:** Since 2019, major operational and legal changes to criminal justice have been passed and/or implemented in Illinois. These changes include the legalization of marijuana sales in January 2020 and the passing of the SAFE-T Act in 2021. The SAFE-T Act includes numerous changes, from the policing of crime to parole. It can be expected to have direct and indirect impacts (SAFE-T Act, 2021).

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Both the listening sessions for the current JAG strategic plan and the prior JAG strategic plan highlighted that mental health and/or substance use disorder concerns on their own were factors that precipitated contact with the criminal justice system and complicated successful probation and re-entry program completion.

MENTAL HEALTH

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH),¹ approximately 22% of Illinois adults experienced mental illness in 2021. However, only 15% of Illinois adults received treatment, and 6% reported unmet needs for services (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2023). Notably, while the NSDUH estimate for adults in Illinois with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) was 4.3%, Illinois Department of Corrections records indicated that over 10% of incarcerated adults in Illinois have SMI.

CRISIS EVENTS HANDLED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement officers frequently engage with individuals who appear mentally unwell or intoxicated. Since July 1, 2021, Illinois law enforcement agencies have been required to report

¹ NSDUH is used because, for mental health information, no statewide comprehensive data exist on the number of justice-involved persons in Illinois having a mental health disorder or serious mental illness. However, research and surveys can inform the prevalence of mental health needs among this population.

responses to incidents involving citizens with mental health issues, including incident characteristics and response outcomes (50 ILCS 709/5-12-7). Since 2003, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standard Board has offered Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to law enforcement agencies. CIT is an evidence-based police response model for handling mental health incidents. It is designed to avoid the use of force through de-escalation techniques. CIT has been the subject of ICJIA research, with findings showing that it decreased the incidence of police stigmatizing those they encountered (Reichert et al., 2023).

As of this writing, 83,717 crisis incidents have been reported (excluding Chicago, as data are not yet available). Of these incidents, 83.2% were solely for mental health issues, 9.1% were for mental health with substance use disorder, and 4.8% were solely for substance use disorder. Missing data represented the remaining 2.9%. The most common outcomes of crisis events were voluntary admission to treatment (29,633, 35.4%) and involuntary admission to treatment (19,804, 23.7%). Arrest was an uncommon outcome (2,255, 2.7%). Officers with CIT training were part of the response in 32% of all incidents.

MENTAL HEALTH COURTS AND PROBATION

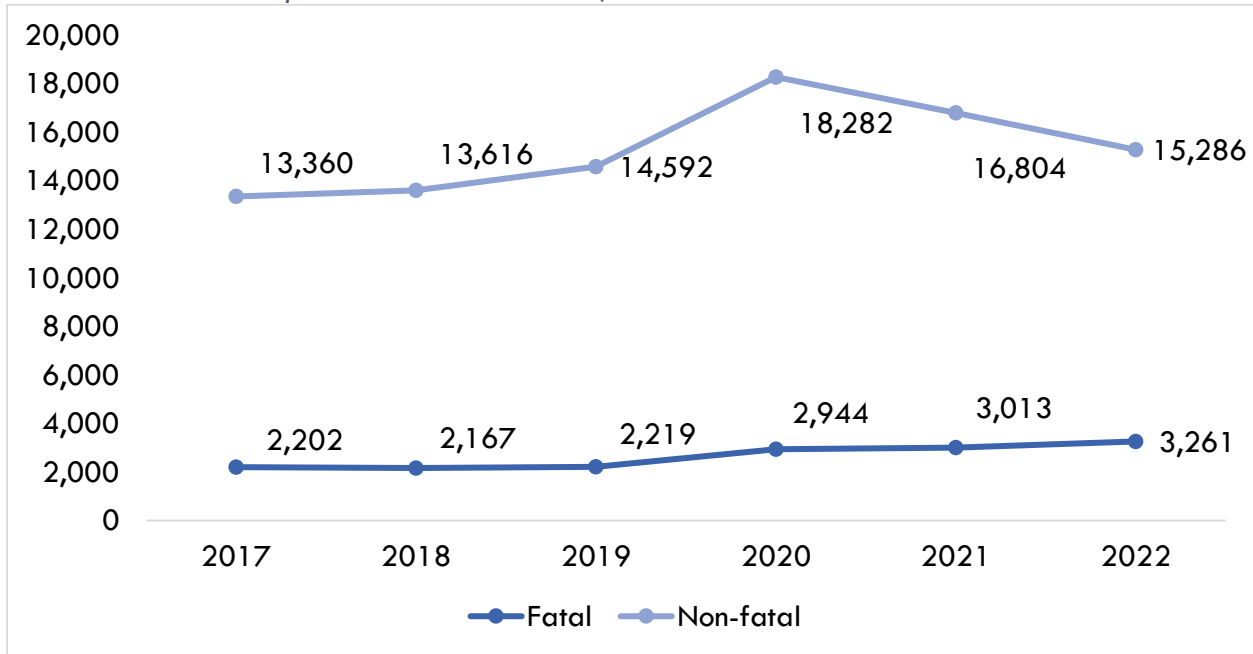
As of 2019, Illinois had 29 mental health problem-solving courts (Devall et al., 2023; Otto, 2020). Mental health courts are common variations of problem-solving courts. Their style of probation programs is non-adversarial. They generally consist of mandated mental health treatment programming to address the underlying behavioral issues that contribute to a person's criminal activity (Illinois Department of Public Health, 2023). Caseload statistics for problem-solving courts, including mental health, are not tracked separately in statewide court statistics. However, probation cases are. The number of probation cases with mental health treatment as part of the conditions of probation stayed consistent from 2016 to 2021, at approximately 4,000 per year. There was a brief dip in this trend in 2020, likely a result of reductions in case processing during the COVID-19 pandemic. For context, the average number of individuals on probation per year between 2016 and 2021 was 72,843 but closer to 67,000 for 2020 and 2021, again due to COVID-19 and case processing.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Approximately 3% of Illinois adults used illicit drugs (excluding marijuana) within a month of the 2021 NSDUH survey, and 3% of Illinois adults indicated they misused opioids within the prior 12 months (SAMHSA, 2023). While both fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses grew since 2017, fatal overdoses increased at a larger rate: 48% compared to 16%, respectively (Figure 12) (Illinois Department of Public Health, 2023). Synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, were present in 89% of patients at the time of overdose, and large increases in overdoses and fatalities coincided with the early COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 12

Fatal and Non-fatal Opioid Overdoses in Illinois, 2017-2022

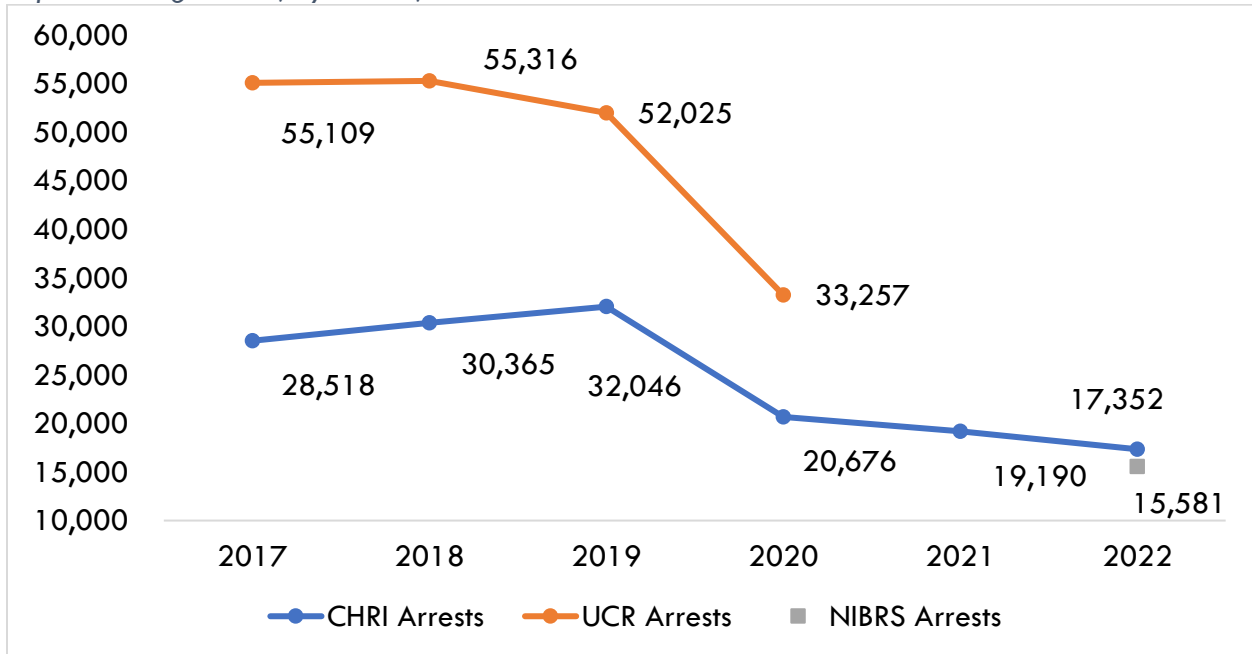


Note. The data source was the Illinois Department of Public Health.

DRUG ARRESTS

Data on drug arrests have been complicated by changing laws and alternate approaches to enforcement, by the COVID-19 pandemic, and by major changes to reporting, all occurring in 2020-2021. Figure 13 demonstrates this, with the I-UCR data showing a 36% decline in reported drug arrests in 2020, which is likewise reflected by a 35% decrease in arrests according to the ISP Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) database.

Figure 13
Reported Drug Arrests, by Source, 2017-2022



Note. The data sources were Illinois State Police I-UCR, NIBRS, CHRI. UCR data ended in 2020, and NIBRS data began in 2022.

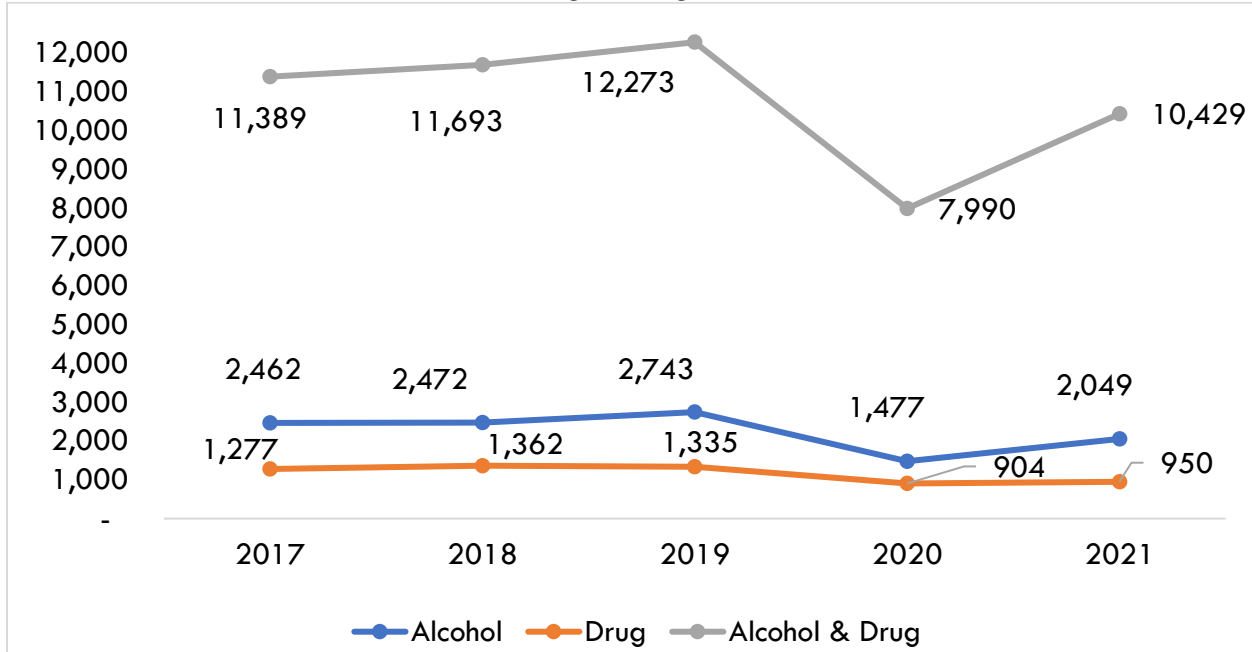
The discrepancy between I-UCR and CHRI is, in part, due to CHRI excluding class C misdemeanors and expunged cannabis arrests. However, these factors only partly explain the gap. In 2022, there were a total of 15,581 total drug arrests entered into NIBRS, which was substantially closer to the count of CHRI arrests.

PROBATION

Based on data from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC), adult probation programming ordered between 2017 and 2021 reflected a decrease in individuals ordered to participate in alcohol (only) treatment, drug (only) treatment, and a combination of alcohol and drug treatment (Figure 14). Additionally, the number of court orders for substance use treatment programming in 2020 reflected a noticeable downturn from previous years, consistent with COVID-19 era policies that limited court activity.

Figure 14

Adult Probation Substance Use Treatment Programming Court Orders, 2017-2021



Note. The data source was the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

VIOLENT CRIME AND FIREARMS

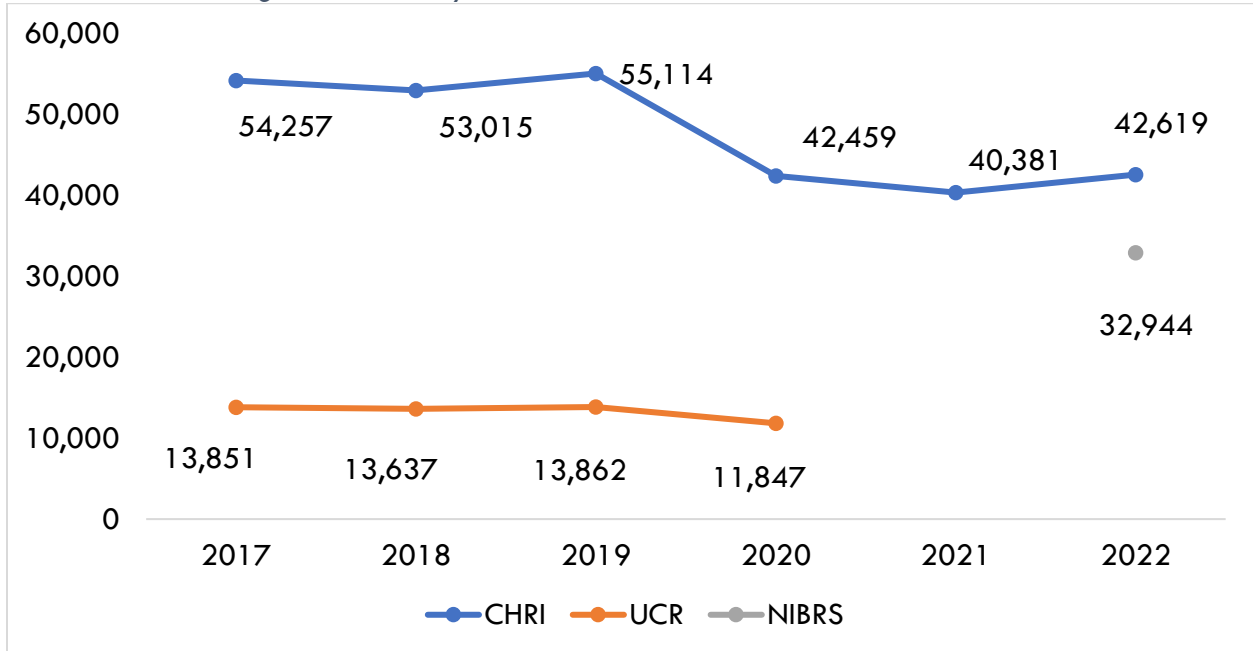
Stakeholders reinforced the need for JAG to focus on addressing violent crime and firearm violence. As previously mentioned, the COVID-19 pandemic and criminal justice reforms impacted reporting, crime, and the number of arrests made. While these factors and the transition to NIBRS make it very difficult to track trends between 2020 and 2022, the increased data per incident provided by NIBRS allows specific tracking for firearm violence that has not been possible since the early 1990s. The overall trends for violent crime, the rate of firearm offense arrests, and firearm deaths are presented, due to NIBRS data only being available from mid-2021.

VIOLENT CRIME TRENDS

Historically, I-UCR offense reporting for crimes against persons has been the most common way to track trends for violent crime. Yet it is not possible to examine for recent years due to the NIBRS transition. Due to this transition, consistent offense reporting was not available for the past five years, and a lack of complete or clear offense data existed for 2021. This inconsistency and incompleteness can be observed in Figure 15. It displays I-UCR and NIBRS data on reported arrests alongside the CHRI arrest data for crimes against persons, which, by contrast, were consistently available and shown. I-UCR figures were lower due to the exclusion of arrests for simple assault, while NIBRS figures were limited primarily by non-reporting agencies. However, I-UCR and NIBRS both count arrests that are also reported to CHRI. It can be seen in the figure that NIBRS offense reports would be expected to be higher even if the underlying crime reports were

steady. Thus, it can be concluded that there has been a reduction in arrests for violent crime from 2020-2022 compared to 2017-2019.

Figure 15
Arrests for Crimes Against Persons by Source

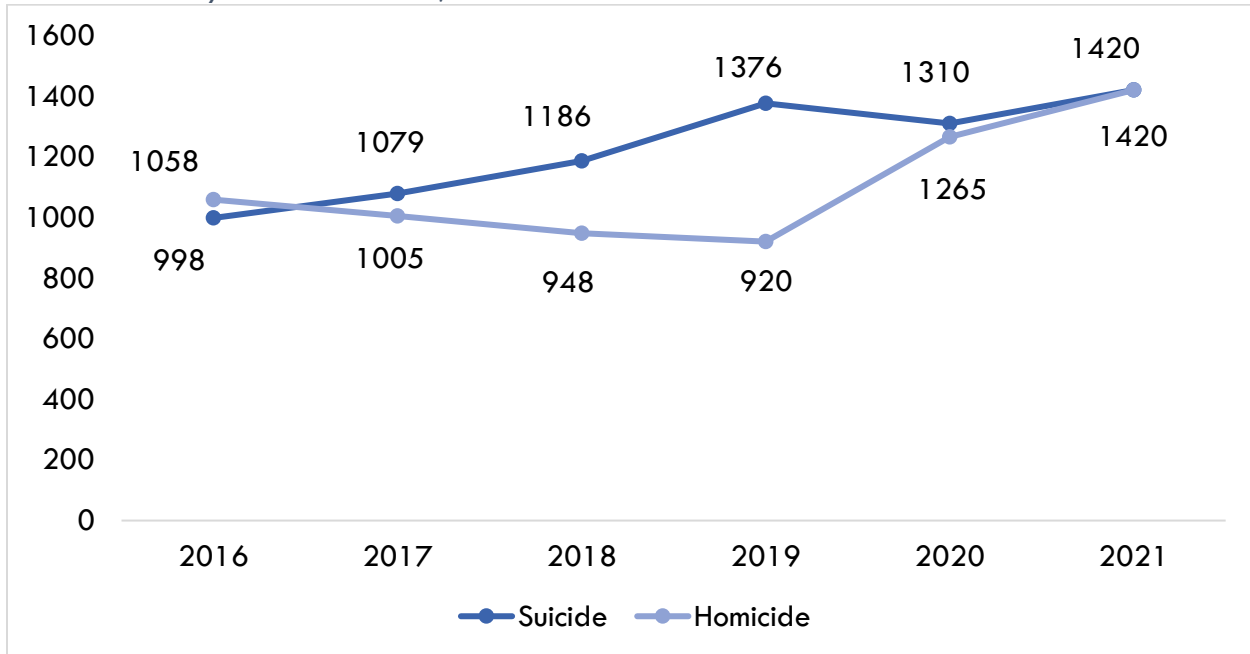


Note. The data source was Illinois State Police I-UCR, NIBRS, CHRI. UCR data ended in 2020, and NIBRS data began in 2022.

FIREARM DEATHS

The Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS) is a collaborative project of Northwestern University and the Illinois Department of Public Health that tracks violent deaths (Northwestern University, n.d.). While IVDRS data on firearm deaths provided an incomplete picture of firearm violence, as many incidents are non-fatal, they did provide a reliable indicator of the worst impact of firearm violence. As seen in Figure 16, there was an increase in firearm fatalities over time due to both crime (homicide) and suicides.

Figure 16
Violent Deaths by Firearm in Illinois, 2016-2021



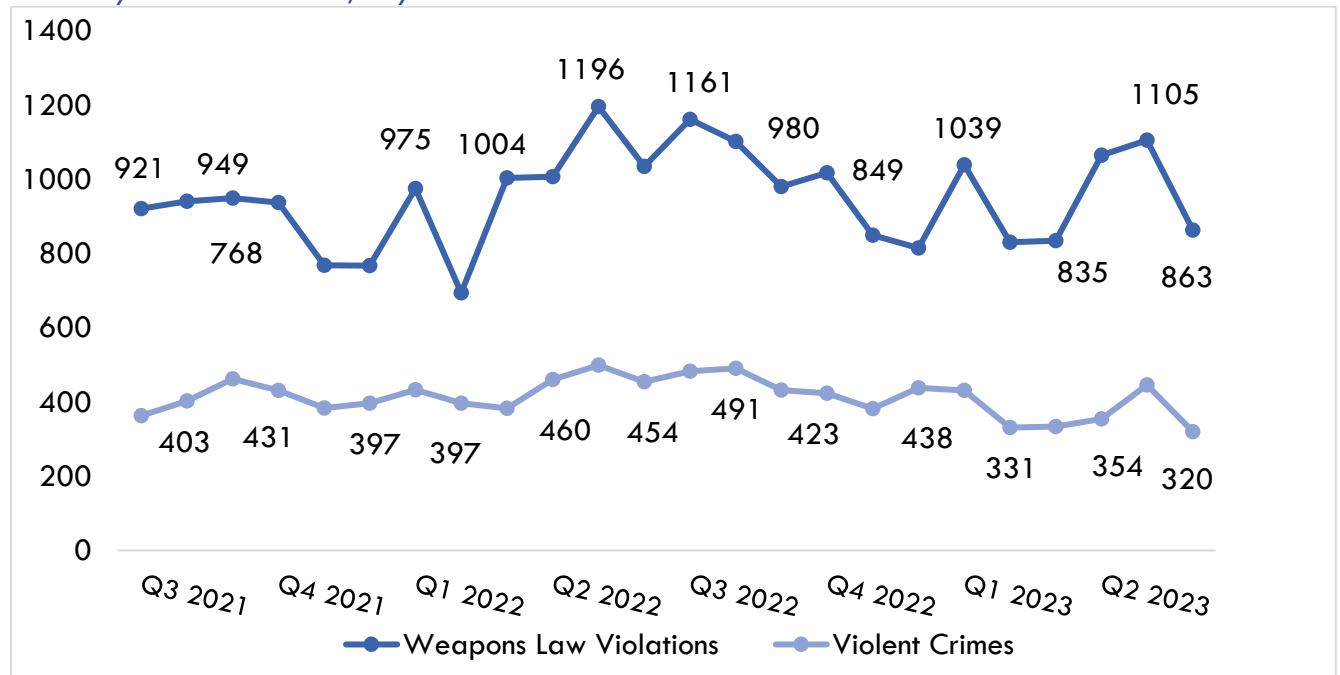
Note. Data source was the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System.

VIOLENT OFFENSES INVOLVING FIREARMS

A substantial strength of the new NIBRS reporting system is that it collects information about weapon type, allowing identification of firearm violence that was not possible with I-UCR summary data or CHRI arrest records.² Figure 17 shows the month-by-month trend for violent crimes involving firearms and weapons law violations reported to NIBRS. In 2022, the only full year available thus far, 11,835 weapons law violations and 5,275 violent crimes involving firearms were entered into NIBRS.

² For firearm violence, UCR data for two primary violent offenses (homicide and aggravated assault and battery) cannot be disaggregated by weapon type. However, NIBRS and the historical I-UCR homicide supplemental dataset do allow for the examination of the weapon used.

Figure 17
 Quarterly Firearm Offenses, July 2021-June 2023



Note. Data source was Illinois State Police NIBRS.

VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF CRIME

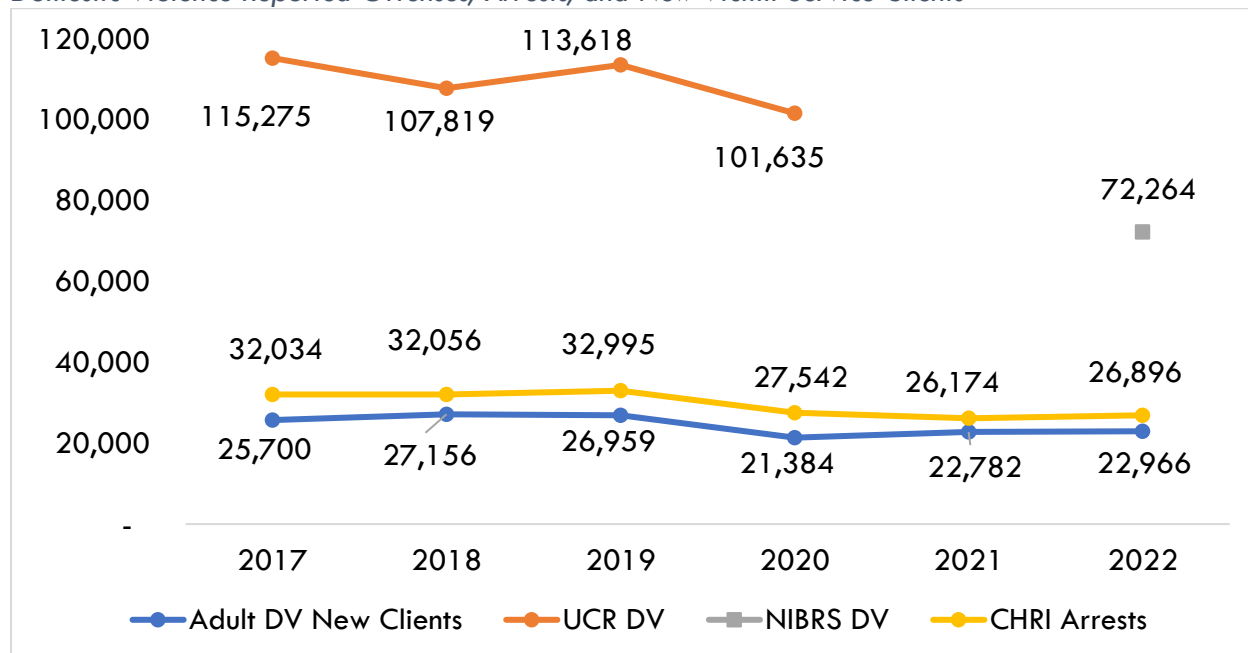
In a 2022 Victim Needs Assessment, 1,114 Illinois survey respondents indicated they had experienced high levels of crime and victimization in their lifetime (Garthe et al., 2022). Survey respondents were between ages 15-70 and were recruited via social media and flyers within community organizations. Respondents were diverse in terms of education, income, and socio-economic factors. Three out of four participants experienced intimate partner violence, and 69% reported a physical assault. One out of five participants was shot or shot at and/or witnessed a murder or homicide. Depending on the crime or experience, participants sought help from different sources. For example, if participants experienced a physical assault, they were most likely to report it to the police or law enforcement. For most other crimes, participants largely sought help from social services or community-based organizations. Finally, participants reported high levels of help-seeking from their family or friends if they experienced intimate partner violence (Garthe et al., 2022).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Figure 18 provides a composite view of domestic violence using different data sources. The 2017-2020 I-UCR summary reports indicated that there were over 100,000 domestic violence reports per year in Illinois before a drop during 2020 and the COVID lockdown. However, calls to

providers' domestic violence hotlines, as indicated by data from InfoNet,³ did rise during the stay-at-home-order (Schaffner et al., 2022). Both the number of new clients seeking domestic violence victims' services via VOCA- or VAWA-funded service providers (again sourced from InfoNet) and the number of arrests for domestic violence are indicated below. As can be seen, incidents reported to police (UCR DV) did not necessarily lead to an arrest. However, those seeking services may not have engaged with the police. Research in 2022 broadly showed that not everyone reported their victimization to police (Thompson & Tapp, 2022).

Figure 18
Domestic Violence Reported Offenses, Arrests, and New Victim Service Clients



Note. Data sources included InfoNet Client Service Database, ICJIA; Illinois State Police I-UCR; Illinois State Police CHRI Database. UCR data ended in 2020 and NIBRS data began in 2022.

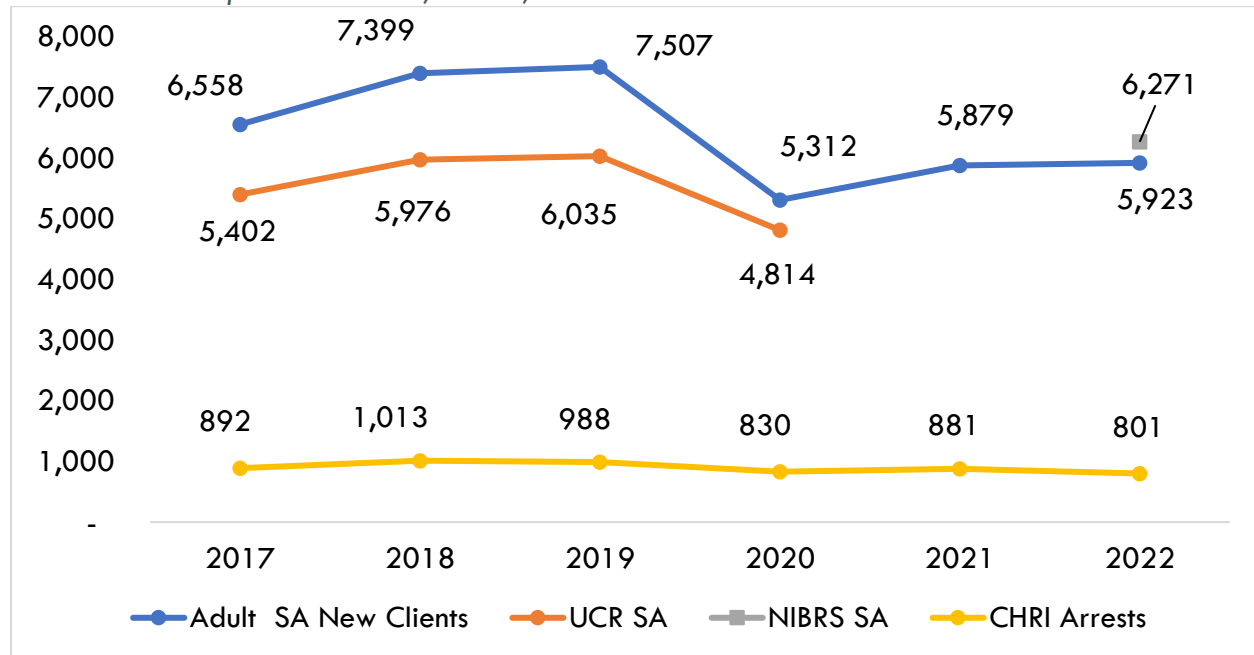
SEXUAL ASSAULT

Figure 19 provides a composite picture of sexual assault assembled from a variety of sources. I-UCR summary reports indicated that over 5,000 sexual assault reports per year occurred in Illinois, prior to a dip during the COVID-19 lockdown. Unlike what was observed for domestic violence data, new sexual assault clients at victim service providers exceeded I-UCR reports. This follows from the low likelihood of sexual assaults being reported to law enforcement compared to domestic violence, as mentioned previously. Generally, even when an offense is reported to law

³ InfoNet is victim services database and case management system for providers that is operated by ICJIA, it collects hotline call data among many other victim services data elements.

enforcement, it frequently does not lead to an arrest, as seen in the low counts of CHRI arrests, relative to I-UCR reports.

Figure 19
Sexual Assault Reported Offenses, Arrests, and New Victim Service Clients



Note. Data sources included InfoNet Client Service Database, ICJIA; Illinois State Police I-UCR; Illinois State Police CHRI Database. UCR data ended in 2020 and NIBRS data began in 2022.

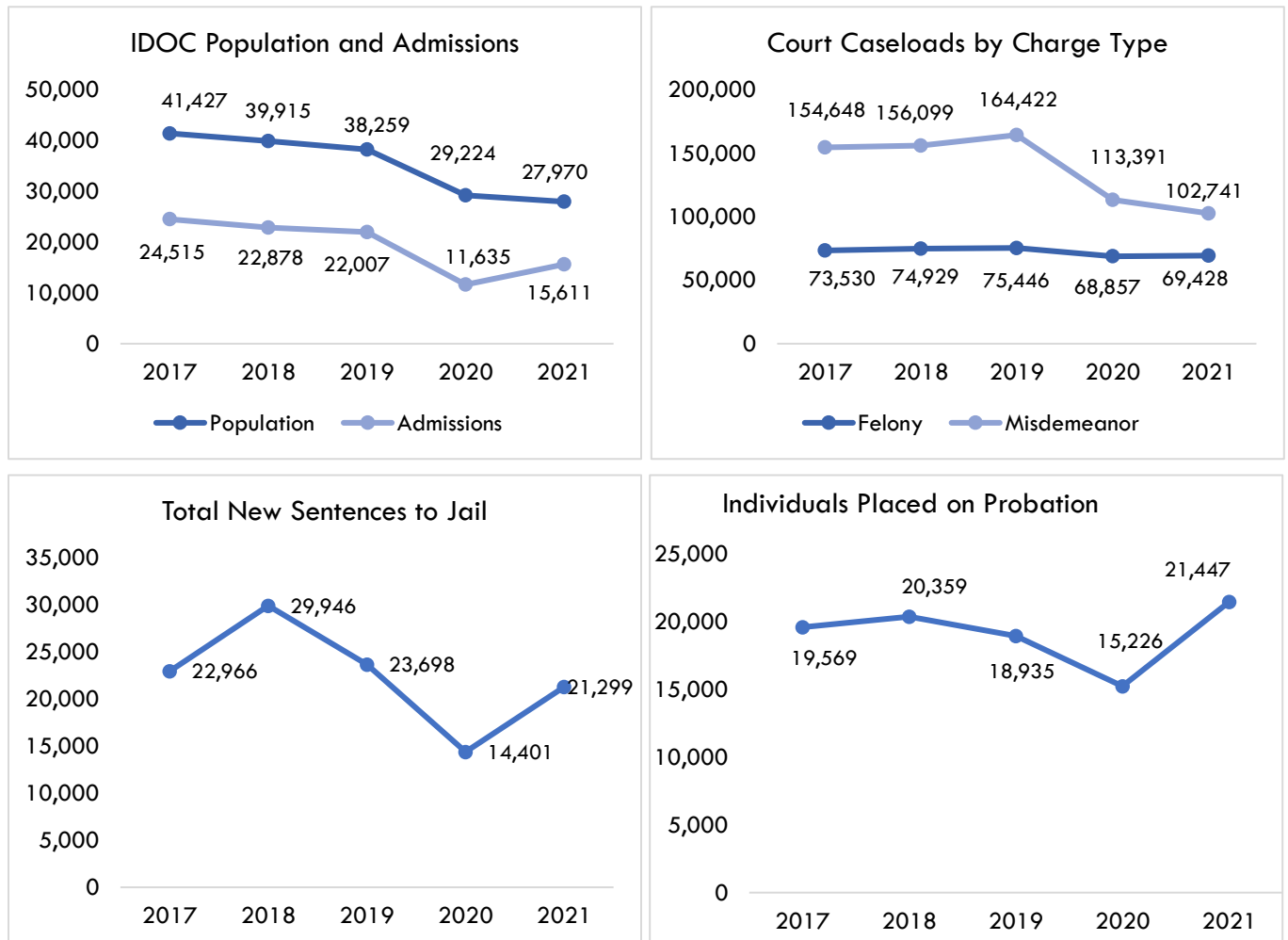
COURTS AND CORRECTIONS

Reentry, court, and community services were topics in the listening sessions and have seen notable changes in recent years. Moreover, support for public defenders was a burgeoning priority among stakeholders in those sessions. Figure 20 (Illinois Prison, Court Caseload, Jail and Probation Data, 2017-2021) shows a composite presentation of trends of IDOC population (upper left), felony and misdemeanor court cases (upper right), total new sentences/convictions (lower left), and new probation placements (lower right).

Prison populations were substantially lower as a long-term trend, as magnified by the increased parole and decreased admissions in 2020. In 2021, prison admissions and populations began rising again, but court data showed that the prosecution of misdemeanors was reduced and that sentencing to jail and probation increased more quickly than prison sentencing. Practically for JAG priorities, higher caseloads may, in part, drive the need for public defenders, while increased probation sentencing may increase the need for specialized services and/or housing.

Figure 20

Illinois Prison, Court Caseload, Jail, and Probation Data, 2017-2021



Note. Data sources were Illinois Department of Corrections and Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

REENTRY

Evidence revealed a large number of individuals reentering the community.⁴ Individuals regularly struggle to obtain suitable and affordable housing post-release. This is an important aspect of reentry to consider as stable housing has been linked to positive outcomes for parolees and can help reduce recidivism (Bahr, 2005). Stable housing has been identified as a priority area by past

⁴ There is also no state-level data available that can be used to identify the most significant needs of justice-involved individuals, such as transportation, housing, medical services, and treatment.

and current JAG strategic planning groups. Figure 21 provides a brief overview of rent costs and other economic indicators of the top ten re-entry locations in Illinois.

Figure 21
Top Ten Re-entry Locations and Economic Indicators

City	N	% of Total (136,831)	Average 2-Bed Rent	Unemployment Rate	Median Household Income
Chicago	46,962	34.3%	\$1,698	5.5%	\$65,781
Rockford	3,730	2.7%	\$1,107	8.7%	\$47,002
Joliet	2,894	2.1%	\$1,480	5.5%	\$77,373
Decatur	2,714	2.0%	\$1,095	8.3%	\$45,111
Springfield	2,602	1.9%	\$1,120	5.6%	\$57,596
Peoria	2,423	1.8%	\$1,129	6.8%	\$53,568
Aurora	1,457	1.1%	\$2,067	4.6%	\$79,642
Danville	1,241	0.9%	\$1,049	8.4%	\$39,230
Kankakee	1,238	0.9%	\$1,382	9.2%	\$38,869
Calumet City	1,162	0.8%	\$1,414	8.9%	\$52,994

Note. Data sources were Illinois Department of Corrections, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Illinois Department of Economic Security, United States Census

A recent ICJIA publication examined employment characteristics of over 4,430 persons who exited the Illinois prison system in 2018. Just under half of the sample (45.6%) reported no earnings from 2019 to 2021. Those who were employed and reported earnings for at least one quarter earned, on average, only \$8,998 annually (Reichert et al., 2023). This amount would not cover rent for an average 2-bedroom apartment in the reentry locations listed above, let alone other living expenses.

Further research identified a need for affordable housing for the formerly incarcerated or justice-involved. A recently released study by ICJIA recommended that, to better serve their clients, probation departments needed to improve collaboration with housing service providers, obtain training on housing, and utilize recovery housing resources (Reichert, et al., 2023).

SECTION 6: ILLINOIS JAG PRIORITIES

OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

A JAG Ad Hoc Committee meeting was held on December 5, 2023. The purpose of this meeting was to present the themes that emerged from the stakeholder feedback (listening sessions and survey) and the data analysis and then to arrive at priorities that would guide JAG funding and the ICJIA research agenda for 2024-2029. The themes were presented as follows:

- Address mental health and substance use disorders for justice-involved persons.
- Reduce violent crime and firearm violence in Illinois communities.
- Support and protect victims and witnesses of crime.
- Support the state in criminal justice planning, data analysis, evaluation, and identification of evidence-based and informed practices.
- Update and improve technology and infrastructures for better data capture and integration.

Several non-JAG grant programs administered by ICJIA currently support programs that address the themes, and these grant programs were identified and compared to the grant funding offered by JAG. For example, grant support for programs administered by ICJIA that served crime victims and witnesses averaged over \$100 million in a given fiscal year, mostly driven by VOCA and VAWA awards. Grant programs that addressed violent crime and prevention averaged over \$53 million. While ICJIA historically administers less funding for mental health and substance use disorders due to its statutory authority focusing on criminal justice, we coordinate with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) which managed over \$220 million in SFY 22 funds in their Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery. They averaged over \$583 million in funds under their Division of Mental Health for programs, including housing support, suicide prevention, and other behavioral health care and supportive services (IDHS, n.d.). JAG is the only ICJIA-administered grant source for research on JAG priorities, and additional research grants that focus on other topics are sought through external sources.

After a presentation of the themes, the Ad Hoc Committee was presented with the following questions for discussion:

- Are the presented themes appropriate as JAG priorities?
- Given available resources, are there themes that should be a lower priority for JAG funding?
- Are there additional themes that should be elevated as a JAG priority?
- Given limited JAG resources, what are our top priorities?
- What are the considerations for each theme?

The Committee meeting concluded with members supporting the presented themes as JAG priorities and elevating the need to include support for public defense and housing needs for those who are justice-involved. Members reiterated the need for improved data collection, data-driven decision-making, information sharing, and program evaluation. In terms of services to victims of crime, it was noted that justice-involved individuals may benefit from services to help break the cycle of victimization and perpetration.

Additional considerations were given to service needs in rural parts of the state and the challenges that both law enforcement and reentry services face in those regions. Members also supported programs with comprehensive and coordinated approaches to providing both service and multijurisdictional collaborations. In programming that addresses multiple areas of need, agencies share information, which benefits the program. Examples that were emphasized include housing, mental health, and substance misuse. Large-scale technology upgrades are somewhat limited in terms of JAG funding availability, but data-sharing and NIBRS compliance are areas that can be explored.

Both the ICJIA Federal and State Grants Unit and the Research and Analysis Unit were then briefed on the JAG priorities to align them with grant procedures and research agenda. Implementation of the plan will include funding support for grant programs within the priority areas and research and program evaluation that address the priorities. Planning for grant funding will include Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) that may combine one or more priorities within a given NOFO. The number, release dates, and types of NOFOs will be established over the five-year period.

Input from the JAG Ad Hoc Committee to finalize recommendations on funding priorities was presented to the full ICJIA Board and approved at the June 2024 meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee came to a consensus that ICJIA should use JAG funding and resources to support programs that align with the following priorities.

PRIORITY 1: ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS.

Stakeholder feedback from both the current and prior JAG planning processes highlighted concerns about mental health and substance misuse as factors that precipitated contact with the criminal justice system. These factors also complicated successful probation and re-entry program completion. In terms of JAG purpose areas, Drug Treatment and Enforcement, and Prevention and Education were ranked as the highest priorities on the stakeholder survey. More specifically, behavioral health interventions and mental health services consistently ranked at the highest levels as programming priorities for future JAG funding. Drug diversion and deflection programming ranked second highest as a remaining priority. Narcotic trafficking enforcement and prosecution now ranked lower. Stakeholders leaned toward diversion and deflection programming over narcotic enforcement and prosecution, representing a shift more toward substance misuse treatment options.

Research has shown that serious mental illness (SMI) is a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder that causes serious functional impairment and significantly interferes with life activities (National

Institute of Mental Health, n.d.). For example, in one study individuals involved in the justice system with SMI generally experienced worse outcomes, such as longer pre-trial detention, and they were at a higher risk of recidivism (Comartin et al., 2021). People with SMI and substance use disorders are over-represented throughout the U.S. criminal justice system. Experts agree that promoting mental health and criminal justice collaboration is a key element in addressing this over-representation (Center for Behavioral Health Statistics & Quality, 2016; Diamond et al., 2001; Peters, 2015).

Program Considerations: Programs with a diversion or deflection focus, programs that consider multiple dimensions of need and co-occurring disorders, trauma-informed victim services, programs in rural jurisdictions, housing assistance, justice-involved persons as a target population for service.

JAG Priority Areas: Drug treatment and enforcement; Corrections and community corrections, including reentry; Prosecution and court; Crime victim and witness initiatives; Prevention and education; Mental health programs, such as community or correctional-based behavioral programs or crisis intervention teams; Implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs.

BJA Areas of Emphasis: Advancing justice system reform efforts, Crime and violence reduction strategies.

PRIORITY 2: REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME AND FIREARM VIOLENCE IN ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES.

Stakeholders emphasized that efforts to prevent firearm violence were necessary to tackle illegal firearm possession and to reduce overall violence. Of the JAG purpose areas, Prevention and Education elicited the highest agreement on the stakeholder survey to remain a JAG priority area. Specifically, for future JAG funding, the prevention of firearm violence ranked third highest (only behind mental health and behavioral health interventions). When asked which of the past JAG priorities should remain a priority, the reduction of violent crime ranked highest in terms of agreement.

Community violence negatively affects millions each year in the United States. Aside from physical injuries, community violence is connected to depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and anxiety for individuals who experience it. Violence can cause an increased risk of chronic diseases for community members. Also, because it slows community progress, it can limit business growth and prosperity. Further, violence can hamper community participation as well as exclude members from healthy spaces, such as their neighborhood parks and other recreational areas (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, n.d.-b).

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, overall violent crime volume decreased 1.7% in the United States from 2021 to 2022 (Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI], 2022). Of reported known weapons in 2022, firearms were the weapons used most in violent crime offenses. An estimated 488,900 violent crime offenses were reported that involved one or more firearms, a 0.6% increase compared to the 486,100 violent crime offenses involving firearms in 2021 (FBI,

2022). In Illinois, data showed that firearm-related suicides and homicides increased in recent years, particularly homicides (Illinois Violent Death Reporting System, n.d.).

Interpersonal gun violence continues to be a significant issue in both Illinois and the United States. Most homicide victims are Black (55%). Specifically, the homicide rate for Black individuals is nearly 10 times that of non-Hispanic White persons (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, n.d.-a). Black adolescents aged 13-17 years are disproportionately affected by interpersonal gun violence due, in part, to the socioeconomic risk factors present in certain communities (World Health Organization, n.d.).

Research showed that gun violence is usually concentrated among groups of serious offenders, and conflicts between street gangs have long been found to fuel much of the serious street violence in major cities. For example, a study of more than 20 cities found that gangs and other criminally active groups, on average, represented less than 1% of a city's population; yet they were connected to more than half of a city's shootings and homicides (Lurie, 2019). This pattern of concentration also appeared in Chicago, where 70% of all fatal and nonfatal gunshot injuries occurred in identifiable networks composed of individuals arrested in previous years. These persons constituted less than 6% of the city's total population (Papachristos et al., 2015).

Many jurisdictions, in particular rural jurisdictions, in Illinois lack the resources to investigate and prosecute violent crime and its contributing factors, such as illegal drug production and trafficking, human trafficking, and firearm trafficking, across jurisdictional boundaries. Multijurisdictional efforts can effectively pool resources to investigate these crimes and can also be structured to provide treatment options when appropriate.

Program Considerations: Programs with a comprehensive strategy toward violent crime and its contributing causes (drug, firearm, and human trafficking), multijurisdictional collaborative efforts, a requirement that law enforcement grantees must be NIBRS-certified, and programs incorporating services for victims or those justice-involved.

JAG Priority Areas: Law enforcement; Prosecution and court; Prevention and education; Corrections and community corrections, including reentry; Crime victim and witness initiatives; Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement; Mental health programs, such as community or correctional-based behavioral programs or crisis intervention teams; Implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs.

BJA Areas of Emphasis: Advancing justice system reform effort, Advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities, Crime and violence reduction strategies, and Community-based violence intervention (CVI) approaches.

PRIORITY 3: SUPPORT AND PROTECT VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF CRIME.

Regardless of other federal grant programs already addressing victim services, stakeholders expressed a continued need for attention to this priority area. Stakeholders also stressed the significance of trauma stemming from experiencing or witnessing violent crime. Trauma is evident, as well, in those who are justice-involved. The need for victim assistance was ranked in the middle of the priorities that JAG should address. While victimization was not a priority area of funding

for the last JAG planning process, domestic violence was specifically identified at that time. For this strategic plan, the discussion centered on a broader view of victimization, particularly on persons experiencing community violence.

In a recent needs assessment on violence in Illinois, 48% of survey respondents said they had been exposed to community violence before the age of 18 (Garthe et al., 2021). However, the 2021 Victim Service Provider Study indicated many victim service agencies did not offer services to victims of community violence. More than half reported they did not provide services to victims of robbery (55.6%) and gang violence (55.1%), and about a third did not offer services for physical assault (35.6%) and gun violence victims (33.1%) (Garthe et al., 2022).

In another recent study examining underserved victim populations in Illinois, domestic violence and sexual assault service providers described underserved victims as those who encounter one or more barriers to receiving services (Gruschow & Vasquez, 2020). Participants in ICJIA's victim service planning identified various groups as being underserved, including older adults; minors; racial and ethnic minority populations; LGBTQ+ people; and those who are dually involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system as both victims and offenders, live in rural areas, and have substance use disorders (Vasquez et al., 2023). Stakeholders noted that many involved in the justice system as perpetrators are also victims of crime.

According to the 2016 Victim Needs Assessment Summary Report, victims in Illinois reported a need for counseling and other mental health services as their largest needs. Victims of violent crime expressed the greatest demand for these services. Some of the other services that victims of violent crime mentioned were the need for civil legal services, medical care, and shelter (Aeffect, Inc. 2017).

Program Considerations: Programs that incorporate victim and witness services into their programs, focus on victims and witnesses of crime who are also justice-involved.

JAG Priority Areas: Crime victim and witness initiatives; Prosecution and courts; Corrections and community corrections, including reentry; and Mental health programs, such as community or correctional-based behavioral programs or crisis intervention teams.

BJA Areas of Emphasis: Advancing justice system reform efforts, Crime and violence reduction strategies.

PRIORITY 4: SUPPORT THE STATE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING, DATA ANALYSIS, EVALUATION, AND IDENTIFICATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED AND INFORMED PRACTICES.

Stakeholders highlighted the need for stronger data analytics and collection, particularly in such areas as firearm violence, violent crime, and service needs. They also emphasized that data collection, evaluation, and research were important for informing evidence-based practices. They stressed, as well, a need to come together, understand each other's work, and foster collaboration. Planning, evaluation, and technology ranked in the middle of JAG purpose areas that should be a priority.

Stakeholders praised the state's use of data-driven approaches for distributing funding to jurisdictions. Past awards from JAG have supported and continue to support the state's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). The state's SAC provides objective analysis of criminal justice data for informing statewide policy and practice. The Illinois SAC features research centers that assist practitioners and policymakers in bridging the gap between traditional academic research and practice. The centers encourage and support data-driven practices and policies at both the state and local level. JAG funds also go toward program evaluation and performance measurement for programs that are supported by JAG.

Program Considerations: Develop a research and program evaluation agenda that prioritizes the JAG program areas and the priorities outlined in the JAG strategic plan, and assist in program development and performance metrics for JAG programs.

JAG Priority Areas: Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement.

BJA Areas of Emphasis: Advancing justice system reform efforts, Crime and violence reduction strategies, and Community-based violence intervention approaches.

PRIORITY 5: UPDATE AND IMPROVE TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURES FOR BETTER DATA CAPTURE AND INTEGRATION.

Stakeholders emphasized that accurate and robust data are crucial for effective decision-making. Also important is investing in modernizing the data systems to build evaluation capacity. Stakeholders supported technological advancements that can improve efficiency and communication between agencies, particularly those aimed at integrating data and sharing them across agencies. As mentioned, planning, evaluation, and technology ranked in the middle of JAG purpose areas that should be a priority.

While the challenges of outdated technology and a lack of data exist statewide, so must the solution to address them. Staff discussed what would be required to address statewide technology and data collection concerns – likely a statewide effort involving multiple agencies and data systems. There was concern that given JAG's limited resources, funds may be best used to prioritize NIBRS compliance among law enforcement agencies and to encourage the use of data-sharing agreements between partner agencies applying for JAG program support.

Program Considerations: Programs that incorporate technological and data collection efforts into JAG programming, promote the sharing of data between agencies to improve service and public safety.

JAG Priority Areas: Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement.

BJA Areas of Emphasis: Advancing justice system reform efforts.

PRIORITY 6: SUPPORT PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES.

Stakeholders recognized the need to provide balanced resources to the components of the criminal justice system for it to work efficiently. This was particularly true for public defense, where a lack of staff and training resources can hinder the entire process. Rural areas of the state also

face jail transportation logistics, limited availability of staff and judges, and climbing caseloads. According to a study of indigent defense in Illinois, some indigent defendants who received appointed counsel had to wait several days or even weeks before they learned the identity of the attorney representing them and/or had an opportunity to speak with that attorney (Sixth Amendment Center, 2021). A research study underway at Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law noted a significant difference in funding between indigent defense and prosecution in Illinois counties, with over half the counties differing 100% and some differing as high as 500% (Sherman, 2023).

Program Considerations: Programs that support public defense capacity and training, programs incorporating victim services for those that are justice-involved.

JAG Priority Areas: Prosecution and courts, and crime victim and witness initiatives.

BJA Areas of Emphasis: Advancing criminal justice system reforms, Advancing racial equity, and support for underserved communities.

PRIORITY 7: SUPPORT HOUSING NEEDS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS.

Affordable and stable housing for formerly incarcerated persons was highlighted as a critical factor in reducing recidivism. Stakeholders stressed the importance of providing access to suitable housing and supporting a successful reintegration into society, especially for females with children. Studies showed that when homeless individuals were in recovery, support programs that offered housing they had higher rates of program attendance, longer abstinence, and more employment than those in programs without housing (Brubaker et al., 2013; Milby et al., 2005). A recently released study by ICJIA on housing options for probationers recommended that probation departments improve collaboration with housing service providers; obtain training on housing; and utilize recovery housing resources to better serve their clients (Reichert, et al., 2023). ICJIA also surveyed federally assisted housing agencies. The Illinois housing authorities that reported to ICJIA had 40,654 applications submitted in 2022 for admission to federally assisted housing. While a small proportion (7.2% of applicants) had a criminal record, many housing authorities had lengthy waitlists for all applicants (Maranville et al., 2023).

Program Considerations: Programs that incorporate housing as part of services for the justice-involved.

JAG Priority Areas: Prevention and education, Corrections and community corrections, including reentry.

BJA Areas of Emphasis: Advancing justice system reform efforts; Advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities; Crime and violence reduction strategies.

SECTION 7: STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Agency staff will use the approved strategic plan to administer JAG funds and guide our research agenda. Staff will present funding recommendations based on the priorities to the Budget Committee for consideration and approval. These priorities will guide the development of NOFOs, which are Illinois' grant solicitation process. Specific program funding decisions will be made in consideration of other funding streams programmed by ICJIA (see Section 2), to ensure that JAG funds are used to complement or leverage these dollars.

Funding decisions will be consistent with the agency's funding principles. ICJIA has established two sets of foundational principles for administering funds. The first set of principles—Guiding Principles—is designed to direct ICJIA's overall work, articulating a vision for Illinois' criminal justice system and the purposes it should serve. The second set articulates how the Authority will achieve these goals.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Legitimacy: Criminal justice practices and policy should provide an equitable justice system for all Illinois residents by strengthening the trust between the public and the justice system and promoting the fair distribution of rights, resources, and opportunities.

Fair and Just: Criminal justice laws, policies, and practices should be fairly and effectively enforced. They should ensure that punishment is proportionate to the seriousness of the offense committed, is designed to achieve offender accountability, accounts for victim restoration and public safety, and is limited to the amount necessary to achieve the intended outcomes.

Respect: Criminal justice practices and policies should ensure that victims are treated with respect regarding their dignity and privacy and that their rights are enforced.

Due Process: Criminal justice practices and policies should ensure that all individuals are afforded equal access to fair treatment under the law.

Recovery: Support and services should be provided to victims who suffer physical, emotional, or financial harm as a direct result of the offender's criminal conduct. These services should be provided whether or not the victims choose to participate in the criminal justice system.

Rehabilitation: The criminal justice system should require and support offender rehabilitation services for offenders who want them. These services should be provided in a culturally competent, gender-sensitive, and trauma-informed manner.

Strengthen Communities: The criminal justice system should strengthen communities and their capacities to prevent crime and violence.

Prevention: The criminal justice system should prevent crime and violence to mitigate its harmful effects on individuals and communities.

Research Informed: Criminal justice policies and practices should be informed by statistics, research, and community input. Criminal justice data, statistical analyses, and research should be accessible to all communities.

Collaboration: The sectors of the criminal justice system and victim service providers should collaborate to provide efficient, effective, and expedient justice. This collaboration should foster cross-system coordination and appropriate information sharing.

Efficient: The criminal justice system should avoid unnecessary costs and maximize its limited resources to achieve its intended outcomes.

While the Guiding Principles outline a broad vision for the State’s criminal justice system, the second set of principles—Grantmaking Principles—articulate guidance for achieving the vision.

GRANTMAKING PRINCIPLES

1. The Authority should strive to maximize the use of available federal and state funds, seeking any reasonable alternatives to lapsing funds back to the federal or state government.
2. The Authority's decision to award federal and state funds should have a foundation in the best available research, evaluation, practice, and professional advice.
3. The Authority's decision to award federal and state funds should consider the balance of resources across the justice system and its potential impact in other areas of the system.
4. The Authority's federal and state funds should not result in a duplication of efforts already in place.
5. The Authority's federal and state funds cannot be used to supplant other funds.
6. The Authority's federal and state funds should be allocated (a) to areas demonstrating need based on an analysis of the nature and extent of the problem(s) and (b) to programs in areas where there is an opportunity to impact the identified problem(s). In addition, to the extent permitted by program guidelines, some portion of available federal and state funds should be used for the following:
 - To encourage collaborative approaches to problem-solving, planning, and program implementation.
 - To encourage innovative pilot or demonstration projects.
 - To evaluate funded projects and support an ongoing program of research designed to further planning and program development.
 - To build the capacity of those in the criminal justice system.

Together, these Guiding and Grantmaking Principles provide the Authority's staff and Board with the core purposes and operational imperatives to inform and direct the agency's core work. Additionally, ICJIA staff are committed to ensuring that funded programs are informed by evidence and data, as well as implementation science.

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APPENDIX A: JAG STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY

This survey is for agencies to provide input on the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Program (or JAG funding), administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), to help fulfill the state requirement for JAG funding.

JAG funds can be used for:

- State and local initiatives
 - Law enforcement
 - Prosecution
 - Indigent defense
 - Courts
 - Crime prevention and education
 - Corrections and community corrections
 - Drug treatment and enforcement
 - Planning
 - Evaluation
 - Technology improvement
 - Training
 - Crime victim and witness initiatives
 - Mental health programs, and related law enforcement
 - Corrections programs
 - Behavioral programs
 - Crisis intervention teams
-

1. What is the primary purpose or sector in the agency or organization where you work?

Law Enforcement

Juvenile justice, youth, or education (K-12)

Courts (including prosecution, defense, and probation)

Corrections, parole, and reentry

Behavioral health (mental health, or substance use and recovery)

Other social services or community engagement/outreach or advocacy

Legal aid

Victim or witness services/support

Academia or research

Other (specify): _____

2. Does your agency have access to electronic data to help you plan, evaluate your agency's work, or determine outcomes?

- Yes, we have an automated data system, and it is easy to access information
- Yes, we have an automated data system, but it is difficult to access information
- Our data are not automated
- Do not know

3. Please provide your level of agreement that each of the following PURPOSE AREAS should be a TOP PRIORITY for the future use of Illinois JAG funds: Strongly disagree to Strongly agree.

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
Law Enforcement					
Planning, evaluation & technology					
Prevention & education					
Drug treatment & enforcement					
Corrections/Community corrections					
Prosecution & courts					
Crime victim & witness					

4. Now please rank the purpose areas 1-7 as priorities for funding in Illinois, with 1 being the top priority: (Click and drag to reorder the list.)

- _____ Law enforcement
- _____ Planning, evaluation & technology
- _____ Prevention & education

- _____ Drug treatment & enforcement
- _____ Corrections/Community corrections
- _____ Prosecution and courts
- _____ Crime victims and witness

5. Based on the previous JAG strategic planning process, ICJIA administered funds in recent federal fiscal years in the following program areas. Please indicate the extent to which each remains a priority, from a very low priority to a very high priority.

	Very low priority (1)	Lower priority (2)	Neutral priority (3)	Higher priority (4)	Very high priority (5)
Multijurisdictional large-scale narcotic trafficking enforcement					
Multijurisdictional narcotic prosecution units					
Criminal justice research and evaluation					
Violent crime reduction					
Addressing transportation barriers in Illinois communities					
Drug diversion/deflection					
National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)					

6. Please provide your level of agreement that each of the following concerns should be a PRIORITY for the future use of Illinois's JAG funds: Strongly disagree to Strongly agree.

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
Mental health					
Firearm violence					
Victim and witness protection					
Public defense					
Updating technology					
Behavioral health interventions					
Research and evaluation					

7. Now please rank each of the following concerns by priority 1-7 for future use of Illinois's JAG funds, with 1 being the top priority : (1-7).

- _____ Mental health
- _____ Firearm violence
- _____ Victim and witness protection
- _____ Publish defense
- _____ Updating technology

_____ Behavioral health interventions

_____ Research and evaluation

8. What is your level of agreement on the weaknesses or challenges in Illinois to address top criminal justice-related concerns? Strongly disagree to Strongly agree.

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
Lack of proper data and data analysis					
Older technology infrastructures					
Lack of communication/coordination between state agencies					
Lack of proper training for employees					
Lack of attention/services towards toward more rural communities					
Lack of workforce/cumbersome hiring process					

9. What is your level of agreement on the strengths of Illinois's plan to tackle Illinois's top criminal justice-related concerns? Strongly disagree to Strongly agree.

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
Increased funding from cannabis					

legalization/other
forms of taxes

Separation of
victim services
and the criminal
legal system

Use of strong
evidence-based
models

Strong social
service support

10. Use of evidence-based practices for program and service delivery is a JAG priority. A program is “evidence-based” when the program program's effectiveness has been demonstrated and obtained through one or more outcome evaluations.

Please indicate how frequently your agency uses evidence-based-practices and measures the effectiveness of services.

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

11. Please rank the biggest challenges facing data collection, evaluation, and research. 1-5, with 1 being the top challenge.

_____ Lack of data sharing across state and local agencies

_____ Use of different local data systems instead of integrated statewide data systems

_____ Use of out-of-date technology

_____ Need for more evaluation of innovative programs

_____ Need for improved dissemination of research findings

12. Are there other state or local criminal justice needs/priorities you would recommend to ICJIA?

13. Do you have any additional comments to share?

Thank you for completing this survey. Your responses have been recorded.

APPENDIX B: SURVEY RESPONSES

Table 1

JAG Purpose Areas: Respondents' Agreement on Priorities for Use of JAG Funds by Purpose Area

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Mean
Prevention & education	0	0	2	2	9	4.5
Drug treatment & enforcement	0	1	1	3	8	4.4
Crime victim & witness	0	1	0	5	7	4.4
Planning, evaluation & technology	1	0	3	3	6	4.0
Corrections/Community corrections	2	1	5	3	2	3.2
Prosecution & courts	1	2	5	4	1	3.2
Law enforcement	4	3	1	4	1	2.6

Note. Sample size was 13 except where otherwise noted. Means were created based on Likert scale responses of Strongly disagree (1) to Strongly agree (5).

Table 2

	Ranking							Mean
	Least (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	Highest (7)	
Drug treatment & enforcement	0	0	1	4	2	3	3	5.2
Prevention & education	1	2	0	0	3	4	3	5.0
Crime victim & witness	0	1	1	4	1	4	2	4.9
Planning, evaluation & technology	0	2	2	1	3	2	3	4.8
Prosecution & courts	2	4	4	0	2	0	1	3.0
Corrections/Community corrections	4	2	4	1	1	0	1	2.8

Law enforcement	6	2	1	3	1	0	0	2.3
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JAG Purpose Areas: Respondents' Ranking of Priorities for Funding by JAG Purpose Area

Note. Sample size was 13. Mean rankings were based on responses on ranking (1 = highest priority, 7= lowest priority) being reverse coded, so the higher the score, the higher the priority.

Table 3

Priorities for Future JAG Funding: Respondents' Agreement on Concerns that Should be a Priority for Future JAG Funding in Illinois.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Mean
Behavioral health interventions	0	0	0	2	11	4.9
Mental health	0	0	1	2	10	4.7
Firearm violence	0	1	1	1	10	4.5
Victim & witness protection (n = 12)	0	0	1	4	7	4.5
Updating technology	0	0	1	6	6	4.4
Research & evaluation	0	0	3	3	7	4.3
Public defense	0	1	3	5	4	3.9

Note. Sample size was 13 except where otherwise noted. Means were created based on Likert scale responses of Strongly disagree (1) to Strongly agree (5).

Table 4

Priorities for Future JAG Funding: Respondents' Ranking of Concerns that Should be a Priority for Future JAG Funding in Illinois.

	Ranking							Mean
	Least (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	Highest (7)	
Mental health	0	0	1	2	1	1	8	6.0
Behavioral health interventions	0	1	0	3	1	5	3	5.4
Firearm violence	1	0	1	3	3	4	1	4.8

Victim and witness protection	1	3	4	0	4	1	0	3.5
Research and evaluation	4	3	1	1	2	2	0	3.0
Public defense	5	2	2	2	1	0	1	2.7
Updating technology	2	4	4	2	1	0	0	2.7

Note. Sample size was 13. Mean rankings were based on responses on ranking (1 = highest priority, 7= lowest priority) being reverse coded, so the higher the score, the higher the priority.

Table 5

Prior JAG Funding: Respondent Agreement of Prior Illinois JAG Priorities by Program Area

	Very low priority (1)	Lower priority (2)	Neutral priority (3)	Higher priority (4)	Very high priority (5)	Mean
Violent crime reduction (<i>n</i> = 12)	0	0	0	5	7	4.6
Drug diversion/deflection	0	1	0	5	7	4.4
Criminal justice research & evaluation	1	0	3	5	4	3.9
Addressing transportation barriers in Illinois communities	1	4	0	6	2	3.3
National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)	0	3	6	2	2	3.2
Multijurisdictional large-scale narcotic trafficking enforcement	3	2	4	3	1	2.8
Multijurisdictional narcotic prosecution units	3	2	5	2	1	2.7

Note. Sample size was 13 except where otherwise noted. Means were created based on Likert scale responses of Low priority (1) to Very high priority (5).

Table 6

State Challenges: Respondents' Agreement on Illinois' Weaknesses or Challenges in Illinois to Address Concerns

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Mean
Lack of communication/coordination between state agencies	0	0	1	5	7	4.5
Older technology infrastructures	0	0	2	8	3	4.1
Lack of proper data & data analysis	0	0	4	5	4	4.0
Lack of proper training for employees	0	0	5	7	1	3.7
Lack of workforce/cumbersome hiring process	0	1	4	6	2	3.7
Lack of attention/services toward more rural communities	0	3	3	6	1	3.4

Note. Sample size was 13 except where otherwise noted. Means were created based on Likert scale responses of Strongly disagree (1) to Strongly agree (5).

Table 7

State Strengths: Respondents' Agreement on Illinois' Strengths in Illinois to Address Concerns

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Mean
Strong social service support	0	0	0	3	10	4.8
Use of strong evidence-based models	0	0	0	8	5	4.4
Increased funding from cannabis legalization/other forms of taxes	0	0	2	9	2	4.0
Separation of victim services and the criminal legal system	0	1	4	4	4	3.9

Note. Sample size was 13 except where otherwise noted. Means were created based on Likert scale responses of Strongly disagree (1) to Strongly agree (5).

