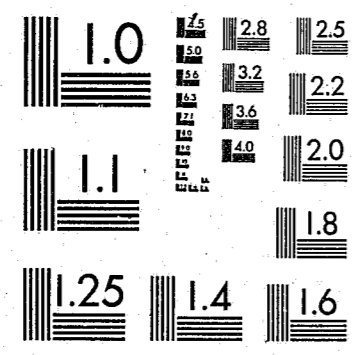


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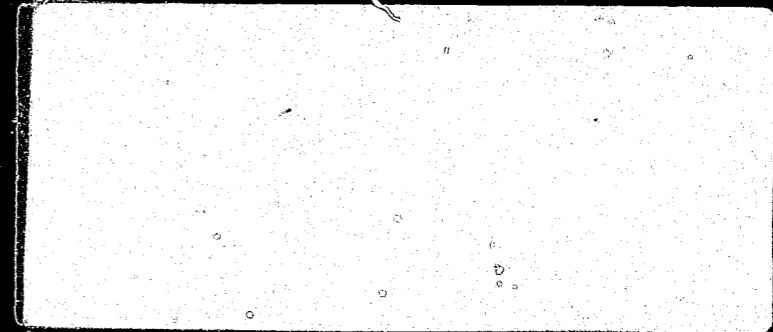
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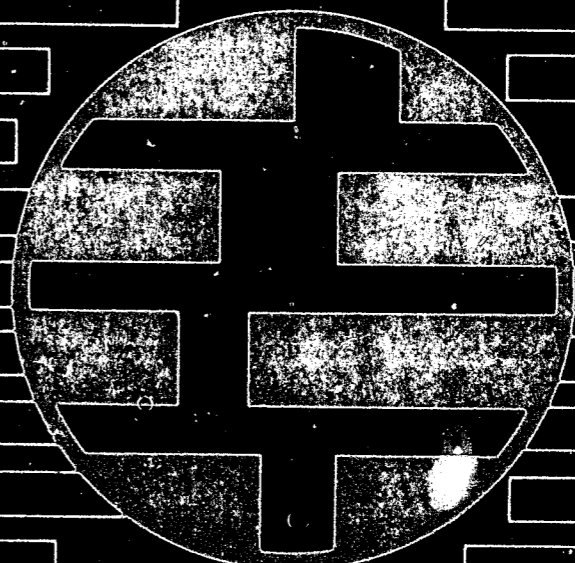
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STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

79500



Illinois Law Enforcement Commission

Data Sources on the Incidence  
of Arson in Illinois

November 4, 1977  
Revised March, 1981

By James R. Coldren, Jr.  
with the assistance of Dan Lipshultz

Statistical Analysis Center

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
J. David Coldren, Director

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
Daniel W. Weil, Chairman  
William Holland, Acting Executive Director

U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice

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ACQUISITIONS

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All SAC papers, from the first draft to final printing and dissemination, are the result of coordinated efforts from the entire staff. We appreciate the contributions made by each and every staff member toward the completion of this paper.

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INTRODUCTION

This is a revised edition of a Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) report published in November of 1977: "Data Sources on the Incidence of Arson in Illinois." In the three years since the publication of that paper advances have been made in arson information reporting systems at the state level and nationwide. The most significant stimulus for these advances has been the recognition by law enforcement officials and citizens that arson is a serious problem requiring concerted efforts toward its prevention. Significant, also, was the legislation passed by Congress in October of 1978 mandating that arson be included as an Index offense in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.<sup>1</sup> The availability of arson data in Illinois and nationwide has changed in recent years due to these and other developments. This paper makes these changes known to users of Illinois criminal justice data.

Illinois Law concerning arson has changed in recent years. Until 1973, three arson offenses were defined by the Criminal Code of Illinois:

- arson;
- possession of explosive or incendiary devices;  
and
- attempted arson.

In October of 1977, Illinois law defined a new arson offense: aggravated arson. The legal definition of the four arson offenses presently recognized by Illinois law (Illinois Revised Statutes, 1979, Chapter 38, Article 20, Sections 20-1 et.seq., and 8-4) are given below.

<sup>1</sup> The Index offenses (prior to this law) were Murder and Non-negligent manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, and Motor Vehicle Theft (FBI, Crime in the U.S. 1978, p. 2).

## Arson

A person commits arson when, by means of fire or explosive, he knowingly:

(a) Damages any real property, or any personal property having a value of \$150 or more, of another without his consent; or

(b) With intent to defraud an insurer, damages any property or any personal property having a value of \$150 or more.

Property "of another" means a building or other property, whether real or personal, in which a person other than the offender has an interest which the offender has no authority to defeat or impair, even though the offender may also have an interest in the building or property.

## Possession of Explosive or Incendiary Devices

A person commits the offense of possession of explosives or incendiary devices in violation of this Section when he possesses, manufactures or transports any explosive compound, timing or detonating device for use with any explosive compound or incendiary device and either intends to use such explosive or device to commit any offense or knows that another intends to use such explosive or device to commit a felony.

## Aggravated Arson

A person commits aggravated arson when by means of fire or explosive he knowingly damages, partially or totally, any building or structure, including any adjacent building or structure, and (1) he knows or

reasonably should know that one or more persons are present therein or (2) any person suffers great bodily harm, or permanent disability or disfigurement as a result of the fire or explosion or (3) a fireman or policeman who is present at the scene acting in the line of duty, is injured as a result of the fire or explosion.

## Attempted Arson

A person commits an attempt when, with intent to commit a specific offense (e.g. arson), he does any act which constitutes a substantial step toward the commission of that offense.

Arson is a crime that poses difficult reporting problems. Any single arson incident can involve as many as three agencies that collect arson data. It will usually involve at least one of them, unless the crime is never detected or reported, in which case no data are collected. The three agencies are (1) fire departments, (2) police departments, and (3) insurance agencies. Each of these agencies collects and reports different kinds of information about arson, and although some overlap takes place, an accurate description of the arson problem in Illinois would be unobtainable without considering these three sources.

This paper describes six major sources of data on arson in Illinois:

- Illinois Uniform Crime Reports;
- Chicago Police Department Bomb and Arson Unit;
- Illinois Courts;
- Illinois Department of Corrections;
- Office of the State Fire Marshal; and
- Metropolitan Chicago Loss Bureau.

For each source, this report provides information concerning four aspects of the quality and availability of arson data: (1)

how the data are gathered, (2) the data available, (3) limitations characterizing the data, and (4) how the data may be obtained.

For the reader's convenience, terms specific to law enforcement and/or arson are defined in a glossary on the final pages of this paper. Each word in this paper that is followed by an asterisk (\*) is defined in the glossary. Appendix A contains a chart that summarizes the kinds of arson data available from the various sources covered in this paper.

ILLINOIS UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

The Illinois Uniform Crime Reports (IUCR) is a source of data concerning arson offenses known to the police, the reported nature of the offenses, arson arrests, and property losses and homicides due to arson.

Data Collection

The Illinois Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) administers the uniform crime reporting program, as mandated by law (Illinois Revised Statutes, 1976, Chapter 38, Section 206-8). Each month all police agencies in Illinois (including university police, railroad police, and other special policing agencies) are required to report crime data to DLE on standard forms. Some agencies report data to DLE through the Sheriff's Office in their county, instead of reporting directly to DLE. DLE organizes and maintains the statewide IUCR database from these reported data, and disseminates monthly and quarterly reports back to the police agencies. In addition, DLE makes IUCR data available to other criminal justice agencies, researchers, students, and other data users.

The IUCR data collection process is complex. Data may be submitted via computer terminal, by mail on standard forms, on computer tape, cards, or printouts in standard formats. Offense data may be submitted either in a summary or a detailed format. An agency submitting offense data in summary format reports aggregated monthly totals of crime classifications (i.e., number of murders per month reported to police). For these agencies, each crime type is reported as a single record each month. Agencies reporting in the detailed format submit incident-level data. Each record in their monthly report is a reported criminal offense. Arrest, property loss, and homicide data are reported at the incident level by all police agencies. DLE requires that specific data on all crimes be reported, and also allows agencies to report optional data. Due to the variety of

reporting options in the IUCR program, the same crime data are not available for all police agencies in Illinois. There is a core of data, however, that is available for all police departments, and that would provide information on arson statewide.

#### Available Data

IUCR data are available from SAC and from DLE.<sup>2</sup> SAC provides data solely through responses to data requests. DLE provides data through standard reports generated from the IUCR database, through responses to specialized data requests, and through its annual publication, Crime in Illinois. The kinds of arson data available from SAC and DLE are reviewed below.

#### SAC: The IUCR Database<sup>3</sup>

Four different kinds of arson data are available from the SAC-IUCR files: offense, arrest, property loss, and homicide. Each type of data is described briefly below. Complete lists of the data elements available for each type are provided in Appendix B, pages 33 - 37 of this paper.

<sup>2</sup> In 1977 SAC undertook the project of recoding DLE's IUCR files into SPSS format, and became a source of IUCR data. SPSS is the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, a set of computerized programs for data analysis. See Nie, et.al., SPSS, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1970, 1975.

<sup>3</sup> The following description of data available from SAC-IUCR files is summary in nature. Detailed information about the structure of the files, and about limitations to the data indirectly related to problems with arson information, is presented in the SAC publication, Illinois Uniform Crime Reports User's Guide and Codebooks. This report is available free of charge from the SAC office.

#### SAC-IUCR Offense Data

SAC-IUCR offense data describe arson offenses reported to the police. They include data pertaining to offenses reported, cleared\*, and unfounded\*, and the handling of persons charged with the offenses. SAC-IUCR offense data are available in two formats: agency-monthly, and county-yearly. The agency-monthly files provide, for each police agency in Illinois (excluding the Chicago Police Department, see "Limitations," pages 10 and 11 of this report), for each month, and for each arson crime category defined in the "Introduction" on pages 1 to 4 of this paper, the IUCR offense data listed in Appendix B. The county-yearly files provide the same data as the agency-monthly files, but the data are yearly totals for each Illinois county.

#### SAC-IUCR Arrest Data

SAC-IUCR arrest data describe arrests made for arson offenses. Unlike offense data, which describe reported crime incidents, arrest data describe persons arrested for reported offenses. SAC-IUCR arrest data for arson include data pertaining to the numbers of persons arrested for arson offenses, and their age, sex, and race. These data are available from SAC in three formats: incident, agency-monthly, and county-yearly. The incident arrest files provide, for each arrest made by a police agency in Illinois (including the Chicago Police Department), the arrest data listed in Appendix B. The agency-monthly and county-yearly arrest files provide different kinds of arrest information, aggregated along the same lines as the offense data described above, as well as by age, race, and sex of arrestee.

#### SAC-IUCR Property Loss Data

SAC-IUCR property loss data describe, for arson offenses, the type and value of the property destroyed, and other particulars relating to police responses to property loss offenses. These data are available from SAC in the incident format. The property loss files provide, for each arson offense, the data listed in Appendix B.

## SAC-IUCR Homicide Data

SAC-IUCR homicide data describe, for homicides due to arson, the offender, the victim, the relationship between the victim and the offender, and the circumstances surrounding the crime. These files provide, for each homicide that is reported by an Illinois police agency, the homicide data elements listed in Appendix B.

The SAC-IUCR data files consist mainly of data reported to DLE that have been reformatted to meet user needs. Certain variables were added to the original data to enhance the possibilities for data analysis. This additional information identifies which Illinois court circuit, planning region, or Common Characteristic Grouping (CCG)\*, and to which felony or misdemeanor class an arson record applies.

DLE: IUCR Database

DLE's computerized files provide the same kinds of arson information provided by the SAC-IUCR files, but in slightly different formats. Arson offense, arrest, homicide, and property loss data are available in the form of DLE's standard reports for various geographic and administrative levels, including:

- police agency;
- county;
- planning region;
- Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA)\*;
- any grouping of police agencies; and
- any other grouping along county lines.

DLE maintains arrest, homicide, and property loss data for all police agencies in Illinois in incident files. Offense and property loss data are maintained in incident files for the agencies that report those data in the detailed format. Arson data can be provided in time periods other than years (i.e., monthly, quarterly).

DLE has published arson data in Crime in Illinois since 1973. These data, compiled from the computerized IUCR database, have been summary in nature, and have been reported in different formats over the years. Each year since 1973 two tables containing arson data have been published in Crime in Illinois: the Annual Property Analysis by Offense and the Offense Summary.

The Annual Property Analysis by Offense reports, for all arson offenses in a certain year, the following data:

- total number of offenses actually occurring\*;
- percent contribution of total arson offenses to all property crimes; and
- total dollar value destroyed.

The Offense Summary reports, for a certain year for each arson category (and for all categories combined), the following data:

- number of arson offenses known to the police;
- number and percentage of reported arson offenses unfounded;
- number referred to another jurisdiction;
- number actually occurring;
- number of arson offenses cleared due to:
  - a) exceptional clearances,
  - b) arrest of adult,
  - c) arrest of juvenile, and
- total and percentage of arson offenses cleared.

Since 1978 two other tables containing summary arson data have been published in Crime in Illinois: the Annual Arson Analysis by Place, and Arson Arrests.

The Annual Arson Analysis by Place reports the following data for a certain year for each of a number of place categories:

- number of offenses occurring during the day\*;
- number of offenses occurring at night\*;
- number of offenses occurring at an unknown time;
- total number and percent distribution of offenses; and
- dollar value destroyed.

The Arson Arrests table reports, for the current and previous year (including percent of change figures), the age, race, and sex of arson arrestees using the following categories:

Age: - adult\*  
- juvenile\*

Race: - White  
- Negro  
- Mexican  
- Indian  
- other

Sex: - male  
- female.

#### Limitations

IUCR arson data are limited for a number of reasons. The chief limitation is due to underreporting. Not all arsons are distinguishable from other fires, and not all arsons are reported to the police. Some are dealt with by a fire department or other agency such as the Office of the State Fire Marshal (see pages 22 to 27 of this paper).

Until recently, the DLE procedure for recording multiple Index offenses was to score the most serious offense on the reporting form. In January of 1980, in response to a change in the FBI's reporting policy, this policy was changed. Now since arson has become an Index offense (see page 1 of this paper), in cases of multiple Index offenses including arson, the arson and the most serious offense are recorded in the IUCR database. This policy change highlights two important points:

- 1) The Chicago Police Department (CPD) only reports Offense data to DLE for the Index offenses. It began reporting arson offense data to DLE in January of 1980.<sup>4</sup> CPD arson offense data are

<sup>4</sup> Phone interview with the IUCR Supervisor at DLE, 7/21/80. It is important to note here that DLE has a strict policy regarding the dissemination of CPD data. It will only disseminate the totals for arson offenses reported to the Chicago Police Department. Requests for other CPD data are referred to the Chicago Police Department.

lacking from the IUCR database for all previous years.

- 2) Now, arson is the only Index offense that is recorded in addition to the most serious Index offense in cases of multiple offenses. This presents problems in interpreting Index offenses totals, and in comparing Index offense data across the time of the change in the reporting policy. In addition, the current DLE policy, in accordance with FBI offense reporting standards, is to score one arson offense regardless of the number of offenders involved in the incident. Prior to 1980, one arson offense was scored in the IUCR database for each offender involved in a single arson incident. This further complicates arson offense data analysis.

The property loss and homicide incident data files have special limitations worth mentioning. The accuracy of dollar loss figures concerning arson is questionable due to the likelihood that some property owners inflate the estimates, and that the police officers have no other information to rely on. The SAC-IUCR homicide incident data files do not cover the years 1972 and 1973.

There are also limitations to IUCR arson data that result from problems that arise with all data reporting systems: inaccurate coding, late reporting, and the like. See the SAC publication, Illinois Uniform Crime Reports User's Guide and Codebooks, and the DLE publication, Crime in Illinois, for more discussion concerning limitations of IUCR data.

#### Access

For information concerning the Illinois Uniform Crime Reports project at DLE, contact the IUCR Supervisor at:



(217) 782-3310

Requests for standard or special data reports from DLE, or for copies of Crime in Illinois, should be directed to the Division of Support Services at:

Department of Law Enforcement  
Division of Support Services  
Bureau of Identification  
300 Armory Building  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

All requests concerning SAC-IUCR arson data should be directed to the Statistical Analysis Center at:

(312) 454-1560

SAC's address is:

Illinois Law Enforcement Commission  
Criminal Justice Information Systems  
Statistical Analysis Center  
120 South Riverside Plaza  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

#### CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT BOMB AND ARSON SECTION

The Bomb and Arson Section of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) responds to reported arson offenses. The Bomb and Arson Section is a source of arson offense and incident data for the City of Chicago only. It is included in this report because CPD arson offense data are not included in IUCR data for all years prior to 1980, and Chicago arson offenses make up a large portion of the statewide total.

#### Data Collection

Each time a fire incident is reported to the Chicago Police Department a police officer is dispatched to the scene. If, upon on-the-scene investigation, including consultation with the Chicago Fire Department, the fire is thought to be suspicious, the Bomb and Arson Section is requested to investigate the fire. The Bomb and Arson Section then goes to the scene of the fire and conducts its own investigation. Thus, two sources of arson information are generated by the Chicago Police Department: 1) the information contained in the incident reports, and 2) the information collected through the Bomb and Arson Section's investigations.

#### Available Data

Arson data are maintained in three different formats by the Chicago Police Department. Some data are contained in the Department's computerized information system. Summary statistics are available from the Bomb and Arson Section, and also from the annual Statistical Summary published by the Department.

The Department's computerized files contain limited arson data. They only provide information concerning the number of arson incidents occurring in the City of Chicago.

The Bomb and Arson Section maintains its own arson data in addition to those it provides to the computerized system. These data are summary in nature and cover arson occurrences, arrests made, types of locations, and the like. The following data are maintained and compiled by the Bomb and Arson Section for each arson investigated:

- beat number of occurrence;
- investigating officer's name;
- address of incident;
- location type;
- type of structure;
- time of incident;
- cause of fire;
- disposition of offense;
- motive;
- number of people arrested; and
- number of injuries caused by the fire.

The annual Statistical Summary published by the Chicago Police Department contains very limited arson data. Each year the number of arson "scenes investigated," and the number of arrests for age, sex, and race categories are reported in the Statistical Summary.

In response to the recent designation of arson as an Index offense (see page 1 of this paper), the Chicago Police Department began reporting arson offense information to the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement. DLE has not determined when it will begin disseminating CPD arson offense data to the public.

#### Limitations

The arson data available from the Chicago Police Department are limited in the same manner as arson data available from DLE or SAC. Since some arsons are difficult to detect, incidences of arson are undercounted. Inaccuracies that creep into reporting and information systems may affect Chicago arson data as well.

#### Access

Requests for copies of the Statistical Summary should be directed to the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, at the following address:

Superintendent, Chicago Police Department  
1121 South State Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Data from the Chicago Police Department's computerized files, or from the Bomb and Arson Section, are generally available upon request to persons with legitimate reasons for obtaining the data. Arson data are provided to individual requestors with permission from the Commander of the Bomb and Arson Section or the Superintendent. Persons wishing to obtain arson data from the Chicago Police Department should contact the Commander of the Bomb and Arson Section. Information about the Section's investigating and data gathering activities can be obtained from the Bomb and Arson Section. Section Officers will answer requests for arson data upon approval of the request by the Commander. The Commander and Section Officers may be reached at the Chicago Police Department at this number:

(312) 744-6237.

## ILLINOIS COURTS DATA

There are two main sources of courts data concerning arson in Illinois: The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, and the Court's Files. The Administrative Office is the central repository for Illinois courts data. It provides limited arson data. The Court's Files, which are maintained for each of the twenty-one court circuits in Illinois, provide detailed information on each arson case that comes before a circuit court. These files are a more comprehensive source of arson data than the Administrative Office, but they are not centrally located.

## Data Collection

Although the Illinois trial level courts are organized by circuits, data collection and reporting take place at the county level. Each court circuit in Illinois consists of one or more counties (see Appendix C for a map detailing the Illinois Circuit Court boundaries). The Circuit Clerk of Court in each county is the person responsible for recordkeeping and reporting data to the Administrative Office.

## The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Each of the one hundred and two Circuit Clerks of Court in Illinois reports data to the Administrative Office on a monthly basis concerning all criminal cases processed. The Administrative Office reviews and compiles these data, and eventually publishes them in the Administrative Office's Annual Report to the Supreme Court of Illinois.

## Court's Files

Each Circuit Clerk of Court in Illinois is required to collect and maintain data concerning each criminal case that comes before the Court. Information concerning each court action covering arson and other criminal cases is maintained in manual (not computerized) Court's Files. The Court's Files are the

most extensive and accurate source of courts data concerning arson in Illinois. They consist of complete written records of court proceedings in arson cases, and are maintained by each of Illinois' one hundred and two Circuit Clerk's of Court.

## Available Data

## Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The arson data published in the Annual Report<sup>5</sup> are severely limited. Since 1973, the Annual Report has presented the number of indictments\*, informations\*, and defendants for arson cases in the Criminal Division of the County Department of the Cook County Circuit Court. In 1978, the Administrative Office began to publish the same information for the Municipal Department of the Cook County Circuit Court.<sup>5</sup> No other arson data are reported in the Annual Report.

## Court's Files

During the course of an arson case, many kinds of information are recorded in the Court's Files, including, for each case:

- filing date;
- name of defendant;
- demographic information concerning defendant;
- transcript of evidence;
- report of proceedings;
- informations;
- indictments;
- complaints\*;
- judgments\*;
- commitments\*;
- sentence(s)\*;
- orders\*; and
- bonds\*.

<sup>5</sup> See the SAC publication, A Guide to the Sources of Data On Criminal Cases Processed in the Cook County Circuit Court, for detailed information concerning the organization of and data available from the Cook County Circuit Court.

## Limitations

Extensive court data concerning arson are available in Illinois, but they are the least accessible of all the arson data reviewed in this report.

The arson data that are centrally located (Administrative Office) are collected and maintained in such a manner that only Cook County arson data can be singled out, and even they offer little information. The most extensive arson data in Illinois (Court's Files) are not located centrally and are not uniformly computerized.<sup>6</sup> Either special arrangements must be made with the Clerk of Courts offices to have data compiled from the files, or individuals must hand search the files. Although Court's Files are public information, persons wishing to access more than a few files at a time must obtain permission from the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court in charge of the files to use the Court's resources for research.

## Access

For information regarding Administrative Office arson data, for data requests, or to obtain copies of the Annual Report, contact the Administrative Office's Statistician at:

The Administrative Office of the Illinois  
Courts  
30 North Michigan Avenue, Room 2010  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
(312) 793-3250

The names, addresses, and phone numbers of the Chief Judges and Clerks of Court for the twenty-one Illinois Circuit Courts are listed in Appendix D, pages 40 to 46 of this report.

<sup>6</sup> Some counties have computerized parts of their record-keeping procedures, but this has been undertaken on an individual basis, with little coordination between counties concerning the parts computerized or the methods used.

## ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) serves as the central repository for data concerning sentenced offenders in Illinois.

## Data Collection

The data collected and maintained by the Department of Corrections are mainly inmate- and event-oriented, and they reside in both physical and computerized files. Each time a person is committed to serve a prison sentence, IDOC initiates a manual file that contains demographic, historical, offense, and sentence-related data concerning the convicted offender. This file is updated and expanded as events occur (transfer to another institution, re-sentencing for other crimes, parole, release) concerning the inmate, and the file resides at the institution in which the person is confined. Approximately one week after the admission of an inmate to any IDOC facility, some of the data from the manual file is entered into IDOC's computerized Corrections Information System (CIS). Some items are updated in the CIS files as they change in the manual files.

## Available Data

IDOC disseminates information from its manual and computerized files through two channels. Requests from the general public are reviewed by IDOC's Research and Evaluation Section, and data are disseminated upon approval by the Section's Director. Requests from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies are handled by the Information Systems Unit at IDOC.

The data available from CIS files include, for each person sentenced for an arson offense(s):

- age;
- race;
- sex;
- years of education;

- religion;
- employable job skills;
- military information;
- county of residence;
- prior Illinois convictions; and
- minimum and maximum sentence.

A complete list of CIS data elements is located in Appendix E, pages 47 to 49 of this report.

The data available from manual files includes and exceeds the data elements listed above and in Appendix E. Like the Court's Files, they contain information concerning every event that happens regarding an inmate during his/her incarceration, including sentence changes, test scores, disciplinary actions, parole hearings, and expected release dates.

#### Limitations

Like courts data, the most complete source of corrections data concerning arson is the manual files that reside in the various corrections institutions. Thus, they are difficult to access on a statewide basis. In addition, no single file contains ALL data concerning an inmate. The Master File at each institution contains most of the data concerning an inmate, but other data may exist in manual files in the Medical, Psychiatric, or other divisions in that institution.

The centrally located and computerized data (CIS) are limited in the following ways. The computerized files do not contain all of the data maintained in the manual files. In the past, the accuracy and completeness of CIS data has suffered due to computer system problems and lack of resources to update and upgrade the system. The Department of Corrections has recently taken steps to improve CIS data by auditing the system and modifying the database. Current and future DOC computerized data, then, will be more accurate and complete than data from past years.

#### Access

Requests for IDOC arson data from law enforcement agencies should be directed to the following address:

Illinois Department of Corrections  
Information Systems Unit  
200 West Washington  
Springfield, Illinois 62786  
(217) 785-9304

Requests from the general public for IDOC arson data, or for access to IDOC files, should be directed to the following address:

Illinois Department of Corrections  
Research Evaluation Section  
160 North La Salle Street  
Room 438  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
(312) 793-6970

## OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is responsible for collecting and reporting data concerning fires in Illinois. In this capacity, OSFM is a source of arson data.

## Data Collection

Local fire departments throughout Illinois are required by law to report data concerning all fires in their jurisdictions to OSFM (Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 127-1/2, Section 6). Currently OSFM uses two different data collecting systems to capture these data, though one system is being phased out.

For many years local fire departments reported fire data to OSFM on "green report forms". The data from these reports were manually coded and sorted by OSFM, and reported in its Annual Report.

Most fire departments now report data to OSFM according to the standards of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), but a few still report data on the green forms. Each fire department participating in NFIRS submits a standard "Incident Report" concerning each fire in its jurisdiction to OSFM and, if necessary, a standard "Casualty Report." These data are entered into computer files at OSFM and sent to the National Fire Data Center in Washington, D.C., which compiles special reports from the data and sends them back to the local departments. As of November 1980, 788 of Illinois' approximately 1300 local fire departments were in various stages of adopting NFIRS, and about one-half of these were actually submitting data.<sup>7</sup>

In addition to operating data reporting systems, OSFM conducts its own investigation of arsons and suspicious fires when called upon by local fire departments for assistance. OSFM fire investigation reports, which are not computerized, also serve as a source of arson data.

<sup>7</sup> Phone interview with the NFIRS Supervisor at OSFM, 11/12/80.

OSFM maintains manual files of insurance-related information concerning suspicious fires in Illinois. Each time an insurance agency handles an insurance claim for a fire "believed to be caused by other than accidental means," it is required by law (Illinois Revised Statutes, 1979, Chapter 73, Section 1153) to report certain data concerning the fire to OSFM. These data are reported on the "Notice of Fire" form, and include the following items:

- Name of Insured(s);
- Date and Time of Fire;
- Address and County of Fire;
- Insurance Company Name;
- Policy Number;
- Policy Term Dates;
- Agent's Name;
- Agent's Address;
- Insured's Address
- Mortgage or Loss Payee's Name;
- Other Persons with Interest in Property or Policy;
- Suspected Origin and/or Cause of Fire;
- Other Insurance on Property; and
- Policy Amount(s).

These data are only available to law enforcement officials.

A fire insurance claims reporting system that will replace the system described above at OSFM with a computerized insurance claims information system has been proposed by the Information Systems Sub-committee of the Governor's Arson Advisory Board. Under this system, all insurance companies in Illinois will be required to report fire data to OSFM concerning all fires believed to be caused by "other than accidental means." These data will be reported on standard forms currently used by the Property Insurance Loss Register (PILR), a national computerized claims reporting service that operates in much the same manner as the Metropolitan Chicago Loss Bureau (see pages 50 to 52 of this paper). For each non-accidental fire loss reported by an insurance company, the following types of data will be reported to OSFM (see Appendix F for a full list of PILR data elements):

- name, age, and sex of insured;
- location of incident;
- date and time of loss;
- insurance company carrying the policy;
- policy amount;
- replacement costs;
- known cause of loss\*;
- number of losses by insured in the last five years; and
- property type.

These data will be used primarily as an aid to law enforcement investigations of suspicious fires. It is important to understand that these are not arson data per se. They are data concerning "suspicious fires" in Illinois that may aid in the detection of arson. In addition, the details of the reporting system have not been finalized, and it is not clear whether summary data will be available to the public or disseminated in a regular fashion.

#### Available Data

Prior to 1979, the arson data available from OSFM consisted of those data contained in the OSFM fire investigation files. These data are limited compared to those available from NFIRS, and consist of the following types of information:

- date and time of incident;
- reporting agency;
- property classification;
- cause of fire;
  - a) accidental,
  - b) incendiary, or
  - c) suspicious,
- number of fatalities and/or injuries; and
- estimated dollar amount of loss.

The data available from NFIRS files are extensive and too numerous to list here. The following list is a subset of NFIRS data elements. The full list is located in Appendix G, pages 53 to 58 of this paper.

#### Incident Reports

- day, month, and year the alarm was received;
- time equipment arrived at scene;
- location of incident;
- alarm method;
- action taken;
- number of fire personnel used;
- number of injuries and/or fatalities;
- ignition form;
- ignition factor;
- structure type;
- flame, smoke, and water damage;
- method of extinguishment;
- dollar loss; and
- property loss.

#### Casualty Reports:

- age of the casualty;
- time of injury;
- sex;
- severity of casualty;
- location;
- conditions preventing escape;
- activity at time of injury or death;
- cause of injury; and
- action taken by emergency personnel.

These and other NFIRS data pertaining to arsons are available from OSFM or the National Fire Data Center. Some of these reports summarize NFIRS data for all fire incidents at the state, county, or local level, and do not distinguish between arsons, suspected arsons, and non-arsons. Five NFIRS reports which would contain information concerning arson are described in brief below:

- 1) The BASE report provides a summary of almost every element contained on the Incident Report Form.
- 2) The SCENARIO report identifies the most frequent combinations of selected factors reported on the Incident Report Form, including the Ignition Factor, Form of Material Ignited, Type of Material Ignited, Form of Heat Ignition, and Time.

- 3) The PROBLEMS report identifies, for each of the ten Fixed Property Uses recognized by NFIRS, the five highest occurrences for each of five factors, including the Ignition Factor.
- 4) The CROSSTAB report provides a cross tabulation of any two NFIRS data elements.
- 5) The TALLY report provides a frequency count for each data element coded on NFIRS forms.

#### Limitations

OSFM arson data from the years prior to the introduction of NFIRS in 1979 are summary in nature and limited in scope. The data available to the public are only those that are reported in the OSFM Annual Report, which include statewide casualties, dollar losses, and totals for arsons and suspected arsons. The OSFM investigation files from which the Annual Report data are compiled are not available for use or inspection to the general public. Permission to see them must be obtained from the State Fire Marshal.

The arson data in the OSFM Annual Reports are additionally limited because OSFM does not investigate all arsons and suspicious fires in Illinois. The Chicago Police and Fire Departments conduct their own investigations, and do not yet report arson data to OSFM.<sup>8</sup> In addition, it is impossible for OSFM investigators to respond to all reports of arsons or suspicious fires, due mainly to resource limitations. Thus, arsons in Illinois are undercounted by OSFM.

<sup>8</sup> The Chicago Police Department is expected to begin submitting NFIRS data to OSFM sometime in 1981.

NFIRS data are incomplete for Illinois because not all local fire departments submit data to OSFM using the NFIRS forms. Full participation in NFIRS will not be achieved until sometime in 1981. Until more departments participate in NFIRS, a determination cannot be made about inaccuracies in the NFIRS database due to reporting and data management problems.

#### Access

Recent copies of OSFM's Annual Report are available from the OSFM office:

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
3150 Executive Park Drive  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
(217) 782-9889

For general information concerning OSFM activities, for arson data, or for permission to see OSFM files, contact the Illinois State Fire Marshal by writing or calling:

(217) 785-0969.

For information concerning NFIRS, or NFIRS data reports, contact the Illinois NFIRS Director at OSFM:

(217) 785-1016

or an NFIRS Systems Analyst at:

(217) 785-1040



## METROPOLITAN CHICAGO LOSS BUREAU

The Metropolitan Chicago Loss Bureau (MCLB) is a non-governmental claims service bureau that collects and maintains data concerning fire loss claims for approximately one hundred Chicago area insurance companies. This represents approximately 80 percent of the dollar volume of fire insurance in the Chicago area.<sup>9</sup> It has been in operation for more than fifty years and represents the most accurate source of data concerning dollar losses due to fire in the Chicago area.

## Data Collection

MCLB collects fire loss claim data from the claims submitted by participating insurance agencies. MCLB reviews each claim, and the data are sorted and stored manually. The data are used to aid insurance investigators and law enforcement officials in arson and insurance fraud investigation. Claims are submitted by insurance agencies in five Illinois counties: Cook, Lake, DuPage, Will, and Kane, and one Indiana county: Lake.

## Available Data

The data contained in MCLB files are very similar to those contained in PILR files. They are insurance claim data that identify the insured party(ies), the extent of the loss, the insurance company involved, the cause of the loss, and so on. These data are available only to insurance investigators and law enforcement officials.

MCLB compiles monthly statistical reports that are available to the public upon request. These reports contain summary statistics concerning incendiary, suspicious, and undetermined fires. These statistics include:

<sup>9</sup> Telephone interview with Donald Mershon, MCLB Manager, 11/15/80.

- total fire claims;
- total dollar loss;
- comparison of incendiary fire costs to all fire costs;
- comparisons with figures from previous years;
- comparisons between regular market values and Illinois Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan Act values (Illinois Revised Statutes, 1980, Chapter 73, Section 1065.69, et.seq.)<sup>10</sup>; and
- comparisons between residential and commercial losses.

MCLB monthly reports also include a comparison of losses under the FAIR Plan Act and the regular market for a number of different building and property classifications.

## Limitations

MCLB data are not valuable as estimators of arson incidents, arrests, or other criminal justice-related phenomena. They are valuable as an investigative aid, and as an indication of dollar losses due to arsons and suspicious fires. Still, not all arson incidents come to the attention of MCLB, and data are compiled only for the Chicago area, so the data are not complete for Illinois, or for the entire Chicago area.

## Access

Requests for information about MCLB, or for copies of monthly reports, should be directed to the MCLB Manager at:

Metropolitan Chicago Loss Bureau  
175 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 322-2500

<sup>10</sup> The FAIR plan is a program that enables building owners to insure their property against fires in arson risk areas that insurance companies normally would not insure.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

More than three years ago, this paper documented the lack of accurate arson data in Illinois, and stated that a concerted effort to collect statewide arson data was needed. This update shows that progress has been made in two directions: 1) State-wide reporting of detailed arson information to a central computerized source has been implemented in Illinois, and 2) Cooperative efforts between insurance, fire, and law enforcement agencies have been proposed. Arson has been declared an Index Crime nationwide, and this has improved arson reporting in Illinois. The Chicago Police Department will begin reporting arson offense data to DLE in the near future, and DLE has begun to report more arson data in their publication containing summary crime data.

Accurate arson data are needed at the state and local levels in Illinois for important reasons. The rise in arson casualties and dollar losses in recent years has brought the arson problem to the forefront in Illinois. Arson is a special category of crime that entails multiple criminal offenses (damage to property, damage to persons (at times), and insurance fraud). As such, it draws together different sectors of public protection and law enforcement services (fire departments, police departments, and insurance companies). Accurate information concerning arson will aid in understanding the nature of the crime, and will support arson prevention. In addition, as programs designed to collect arson data and prevent arsons continue, accurate information will be needed to evaluate and improve them.

Complete and accurate reporting of statewide arson data has not been realized in Illinois, but it is not impossible to achieve. Accurate arson data for the state require cooperative efforts and improvements such as the ones described in this paper. Real gains in arson data reporting and analysis are possible in Illinois in the near future, if these efforts are sustained.

## Appendix A

## Summary Table of Illinois Arson Data Sources

DATA SOURCE	REPORTING PARTY	DATA AVAILABLE
IUCR	Illinois Police Departments	- Offense data - Arrest data - Property Loss data - Homicide data
Chicago Police Department	Fire Department Citizens Police Officers	- Offense data - Arrest data - Property Loss data
Illinois Courts	Circuit Clerks	- Court actions in arson cases - Defendant Information - Sentence Information
Illinois Department of Corrections	Corrections Personnel	- Demographic information on persons sentenced for arson offenses - Sentence information - Parole information
Office of the State Fire Marshal	Fire Departments Insurance Companies	- Information concerning arsons and suspicious fires - Dollar and property loss data - Casualty information
Metropolitan Chicago Loss Bureau	Insurance Companies	- Dollar loss data for arsons and suspicious fires

## Appendix B

Statistical Analysis Center - Illinois Uniform  
Crime Reports (SAC-IUCR) Data Elements

SAC-IUCR Offense Data available in agency-monthly and county-yearly files:

- number of reported offenses;
- number of offenses cleared;
- number of offenses unfounded;
- number of offenses referred to other jurisdictions;
- number of offenses actually occurring;
- number of offenses pending investigation;
- number of offenses cleared due to:
  - a) failure to file a complaint against an adult;
  - b) failure to file a complaint against a juvenile;
  - c) other exceptional clearance - adult;
  - d) other exceptional clearance - juvenile;
  - e) arrest of adult;
  - f) arrest of juvenile;
  - g) administrative closing;
- number of offenses in which a vehicle was used;
- number of adults arrested and held for prosecution;
- number of adults summoned, cited, or notified to appear in court;
- number of adults released without charge;
- number of adults referred to another agency;
- number of juveniles handled within the department;
- number of juveniles summoned, cited, or notified to appear in court;
- number of juveniles referred to a welfare agency;
- number of juveniles referred to juvenile court;
- number of juveniles referred to adult court;
- number of juveniles referred to another jurisdiction; and
- number of juveniles referred by another jurisdiction.

SAC-IUCR Arrest data available in agency-monthly and county-yearly files:

- number of persons arrested;
- number of adults arrested;
- number of juveniles arrested;
- number of persons arrested whose age was not reported;
- number of males arrested;
- number of females arrested;
- number of persons arrested whose sex was not reported;
- number of whites arrested;
- number of blacks arrested;
- number of persons of other races arrested;
- number of persons arrested whose race was not reported;
- number of adult males arrested;

- number of white adult males arrested;
- number of black adult males arrested;
- number of adult males of other races arrested;
- number of juvenile males arrested;
- number of white juvenile males arrested;
- number of black juvenile males arrested;
- number of juvenile males of other races arrested;
- number of adult females arrested;
- number of white adult females arrested;
- number of black adult females arrested;
- number of adult females of other races arrested;
- number of juvenile females arrested;
- number of white juvenile females arrested;
- number of black juvenile females arrested;
- number of juvenile females of other races arrested;
- number of white males arrested;
- number of black males arrested;
- number of males of other races arrested;
- number of white females arrested;
- number of black females arrested;
- number of females of other races arrested;
- number of adult whites arrested;
- number of adult blacks arrested;
- number of adults of other races arrested;
- number of juvenile whites arrested;
- number of juvenile blacks arrested;
- number of juveniles of other races arrested;
- number of persons aged 1 to 4 arrested;
- number of persons aged 5 to 9 arrested;
- number of persons aged 10 to 14 arrested;
- number of persons aged 15 to 19 arrested;
- number of persons aged 20 to 24 arrested;
- number of persons aged 25 to 29 arrested;
- number of persons aged 30 to 34 arrested;
- number of persons aged 35 to 39 arrested;
- number of persons aged 40 to 44 arrested;
- number of persons aged 45 to 49 arrested;
- number of persons aged 50 to 54 arrested;
- number of persons aged 55 to 59 arrested;
- number of persons aged 60 to 64 arrested;
- number of persons aged 65 to 69 arrested;
- number of persons aged 70 to 74 arrested;
- number of persons aged 75 to 79 arrested;
- number of persons aged 80 to 84 arrested;
- number of persons aged 85 and up arrested;
- number of persons aged 15 and 16 arrested;
- number of persons aged 17 to 19 arrested; and
- number of persons aged 17 arrested.

## SAC-IUCR Arrest data available in incident files:

- the police agency that reported the arrest;
- the county the police agency resides in;
- the month and year of the arrest;
- the number of persons the arrest record applies to;<sup>11</sup>
- age, sex, and race of the person arrested;
- residency of the person arrested;
- beat number in which arrest was made;
- sub-beat or block number;
- day of month and week of arrest;
- time of arrest;
- badge number of arresting officer;
- manhours taken to complete arrest;
- police disposition; (arrested and held, released, referred, etc.);
- employment status of person arrested;
- legal status of person arrested (parolee, escapee, work releasee, etc.); and
- work shift of arresting officer.<sup>12</sup>

## SAC-IUCR Property Loss data available in incident files:

- the agency the offense was reported to;
- the county in which the agency resides;
- the year and month the crime was reported;
- the number of offenses to which the record applies;<sup>13</sup>
- type of building or area where the offense occurred;
- method used;
- number of items destroyed;
- type of property destroyed;
- value of property destroyed;
- beat number in which offense occurred;
- sub-beat or block number in which offense occurred;
- day of month and week offense occurred;
- time offense occurred;
- time police officer arrived;

<sup>11</sup> Occasionally, agencies report multiple offenses as a single record.

<sup>12</sup> It is important to understand that, for property and arrest incident data, many of the variables are optionally reported by police agencies. Data about them are not available for all police agencies, only for those choosing to report them.

<sup>13</sup> As is the case with incident data concerning property crimes, agencies report more than one arrest for a single record.

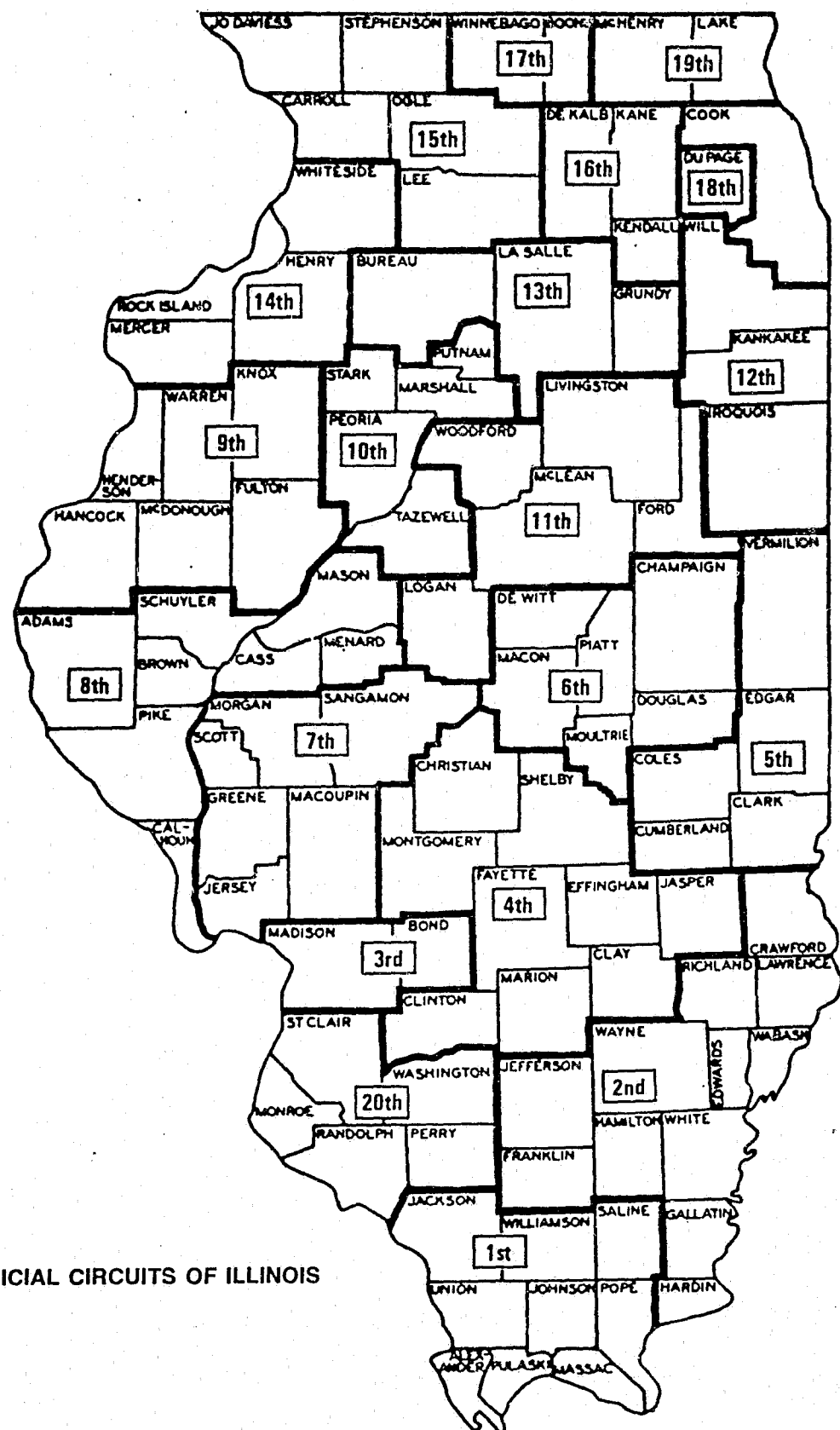
- badge number of police officer;
- number of manhours taken up by investigation;
- case status\*; and
- work shift of officer.

SAC-IUCR Homicide data available in incident files:

- the agency the homicide was reported to;
- the county the police agency resides in;
- the month and year of the offense;
- the age of the homicide victim;
- sex of homicide victim;
- race of victim;
- age of offender;
- sex of offender;
- race of offender;
- relationship between victim and offender;
- day of month of offense;
- weapon used\*;
- circumstances surrounding homicide\*; and
- situation code\*.

Appendix C

Map Detailing the Illinois Circuit Court Boundaries



THE JUDICIAL CIRCUITS OF ILLINOIS

Source: Annual Report to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts 1979

Appendix D

Chief Judges and Circuit Clerks of Court in the Illinois Courts

First Judicial Circuit

Hon. Robert J. Chase  
Williamson County Courthouse  
Marion, IL 62959  
Circuit Clerk  
Pope County  
Golconda, IL 62938

Circuit Clerk  
Alexander County  
Cairo, IL 62914  
Circuit Clerk  
Pulaski County  
Mound City, IL 62963

Circuit Clerk  
Jackson County  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
Circuit Clerk  
Saline County  
Harrisburg, IL 62946

Circuit Clerk  
Johnson County  
Vienna, IL 62995  
Circuit Clerk  
Union County  
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Circuit Clerk  
Massac County  
Metropolis, IL 62960  
Circuit Clerk  
Williamson County  
Marion, IL 62959

Second Judicial Circuit

Hon. Robert W. Whitmer  
Wayne County Courthouse  
Fairfield, IL 62837  
Circuit Clerk  
Hardin County  
Elizabethtown, IL 62931

Circuit Clerk  
Crawford County  
Robinson, IL 62454  
Circuit Clerk  
Jefferson County  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Circuit Clerk  
Edwards County  
Albion, IL 62806  
Circuit Clerk  
Lawrence County  
Lawrenceville, IL 62439

Circuit Clerk  
Franklin County  
Benton, IL 62812  
Circuit Clerk  
Richland County  
Olney, IL 62450

Circuit Clerk  
Gallatin County  
Shawneetown, IL 62984  
Circuit Clerk  
Wabash County  
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863

Circuit Clerk  
Hamilton County  
McCleansboro, IL 62859  
Circuit Clerk  
Wayne County  
Fairfield, IL 62837

Circuit Clerk  
White County  
Carmi, IL 62821



## Third Judicial Circuit

Hon. Horace L. Calvo Madison County Courthouse Edwardsville, IL 62025	Circuit Clerk Bond County Greenville, IL 62246
---	--

Circuit Clerk  
Madison County  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

## Fourth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Bill J. Slater Christian County Courthouse Taylorville, IL 62568	Circuit Clerk Fayette County Vandalia, IL 62471
---	---

Circuit Clerk Christian County Taylorville, IL 62568	Circuit Clerk Jasper County Newton, IL 62448
--	--

Circuit Clerk Clay County Louisville, IL 62858	Circuit Clerk Marion County Salem, IL 62881
--	---

Circuit Clerk Clinton County Carlyle, IL 62231	Circuit Clerk Montgomery County Hillsboro, IL 62049
--	---

Circuit Clerk Effingham County Effingham, IL 62401	Circuit Clerk Shelby County Shelbyville, IL 62565
--	---

## Fifth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Ralph S. Pearman Edgar County Courthouse Paris, IL 61944	Circuit Clerk Cumberland County Toledo, IL 62468
---	--

Circuit Clerk Clark County Marshall, IL 62441	Circuit Clerk Edgar County Paris, IL 61944
---	--

Circuit Clerk Coles County Charleston, IL 61920	Circuit Clerk Vermillion County Danville, IL 61832
---	--

## Sixth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Rodney A. Scott Macon County Courthouse Decatur, IL 62523	Circuit Clerk Douglas County Tuscola, IL 61953
--	--

Circuit Clerk  
Champaign County  
Urbana, IL 61801

Circuit Clerk  
DeWitt County  
Clinton, IL 61727

Circuit Clerk  
Macon County  
Decatur, IL 62523

Circuit Clerk  
Moultrie County  
Sullivan, IL 61951

Circuit Clerk  
Piatt County  
Monticello, IL 61856

## Seventh Judicial Circuit

Hon. Simon L. Friedman  
County Building - Room 403  
Springfield, IL 62701

Circuit Clerk  
Greene County  
Carrollton, IL 62016

Circuit Clerk  
Jersey County  
Jerseyville, IL 62052

Circuit Clerk  
Macoupin County  
Carlinville, IL 62626

Circuit Clerk  
Morgan County  
Jacksonville, IL 62651

Circuit Clerk  
Sangamon County  
Springfield, IL 62701

Circuit Clerk  
Scott County  
Winchester, IL 62694

## Eighth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Fred W. Reither  
Cass County Courthouse  
Virginia, IL 62691

Circuit Clerk  
Adams County  
Quincy, IL 62301

Circuit Clerk  
Brown County  
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

Circuit Clerk  
Calhoun County  
Hardin, IL 62047

Circuit Clerk  
Cass County  
Virginia, IL 62691

Circuit Clerk  
Mason County  
Havana, IL 62644

Circuit Clerk  
Menard County  
Petersburg, IL 62675

Circuit Clerk  
Pike County  
Pittsfield, IL 62363

Circuit Clerk  
Schuyler County  
Rushville, IL 62681

## Ninth Judicial Circuit

Hon. U. S. Collins  
McDonough County Courthouse  
Macomb, IL 61455

Circuit Clerk  
Henderson County  
Oquawka, IL 61469

Circuit Clerk  
Fulton County  
Lewiston, IL 61542

Circuit Clerk  
Knox County  
Galesburg, IL 61401

Circuit Clerk  
Hancock County  
Carthage, IL 62321

Circuit Clerk  
McDonough County  
Macomb, IL 61455

Circuit Clerk  
Warren County  
Monmouth, IL 61462

## Tenth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Richard E. Eagleton  
Peoria County Courthouse  
Peoria, IL 61602

Circuit Clerk  
Putnam County  
Hennepin, IL 61327

Circuit Clerk  
Marshall County  
Lacon, IL 61540

Circuit Clerk  
Stark County  
Toulon, IL 61483

Circuit Clerk  
Peoria County  
Peoria, IL 61602

Circuit Clerk  
Tazewell County  
Pekin, IL 61554

## Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Hon. John T. McCullough  
Logan County Courthouse  
Lincoln, IL 62656

Circuit Clerk  
Logan County  
Lincoln, IL 62656

Circuit Clerk  
Ford County  
Paxton, IL 60957

Circuit Clerk  
McLean County  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Circuit Clerk  
Livingston County  
Pontiac, IL 61764

Circuit Clerk  
Woodford County  
Eureka, IL 61530

## Twelfth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Michael A. Orenic  
Will County Courthouse  
Joliet, IL 60431

Circuit Clerk  
Kankakee County  
Kankakee, IL 60901

Circuit Clerk  
Iroquois County  
Watseka, IL 60970

Circuit Clerk  
Will County  
Joliet, IL 60431

## Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Frank X. Yackley  
LaSalle County Courthouse  
Ottawa, IL 61350

Circuit Clerk  
Grundy County  
Morris, IL 60450

Circuit Clerk  
Bureau County  
Princeton, IL 61356

Circuit Clerk  
LaSalle County  
Ottawa, IL 61350

## Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

Hon. David DeDoncker  
Rock Island County Courthouse  
Rock Island, IL 61201

Circuit Clerk  
Mercer County  
Aledo, IL 61231

Circuit Clerk  
Henry County  
Cambridge, IL 61238

Circuit Clerk  
Rock Island County  
Rock Island, IL 61201

## Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

Hon. James E. Bales  
Lee County Courthouse  
Dixon, IL 61021

Circuit Clerk  
Lee County  
Dixon, IL 61021

Circuit Clerk  
Carroll County  
Mt. Carroll, IL 61053

Circuit Clerk  
Ogle County  
Oregon, IL 61061

Circuit Clerk  
Jo Daviess County  
Galena, IL 61036

Circuit Clerk  
Stephenson County  
Freeport, IL 61032

## Sixteenth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Paul W. Schnake  
Kane County Courthouse  
Geneva, IL 61032

Circuit Clerk  
Kane County  
Geneva, IL 60134

Circuit Clerk  
DeKalb County  
Sycamore, IL 60178

Circuit Clerk  
Kendall County  
Yorkville, IL 60560

## Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Robert C. Gill	Circuit Clerk
Winnebago County Courthouse	Boone County
Rockford, IL 61101	Belvidere, IL 61008

Circuit Clerk  
Winnebago County  
Rockford, IL 61101

## Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

Chief Judge**	Circuit Clerk
DuPage County Courthouse	DuPage County
Wheaton, IL 60187	Wheaton, IL 60187

## Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Robert K. McQueen	Circuit Clerk
Lake County Courthouse	Lake County
Waukegan, IL 60085	Waukegan, IL 60085

Circuit Clerk  
McHenry County  
Woodstock, IL 60098

## Twentieth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Joseph H. Cunningham	Circuit Clerk
County Building, 10 Public Sqr.	Randolph County
Belleville, IL 62220	Chester, IL 62233

Circuit Clerk	Circuit Clerk
Monroe County	St. Clair County
Waterloo, IL 62298	Belleville, IL 62221

Circuit Clerk	Circuit Clerk
Perry County	Washington County
Pinckneyville, IL 62274	Nashville, IL 62263

## Twenty-first Judicial Circuit

Hon. Harry G. Comerford	Circuit Clerk
Richard J. Daley Center	Cook County
Chicago, IL 60602	Chicago, IL 60602

\*\*At the time this paper was printed, the Chief Judge's seat for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit was vacant.

## Appendix E

Corrections Information System (CIS)  
Data Elements

Personal Information

DOC Register Number  
 Name of Resident  
 Address of Resident  
 Sex  
 Race  
 Minority Group  
 Date of Birth  
 Height  
 Weight  
 Hair Color  
 Religion  
 Marital Status  
 Number of Children

Identification Numbers

Illinois Bureau of  
 Investigation Number  
 Federal Bureau of  
 Investigation Number

Education Information

Last School Grade Com-  
 pleted

Program Information

Institution Recommended  
 by Reception and  
 Classification Center  
 Recommended Program  
 Program Interests  
 Reading Placement  
 IQ Test Scores

Institutional Information

Institution Location  
 Current Status  
 Date of Status Change  
 Date of Current Institution  
 Grade  
 Institution Grade

Warrant Information

Date Warrant Issued  
 Type of Warrant Issued

Criminal History

Number of Illinois Commit-  
 ments

Employment Information

Employer's Name and Address  
 Number of Months Employed  
 in last 2 years  
 Occupation  
 Employable Job Skills

Military Information

Military Draft Status  
 Military Branch  
 Military Time of Service  
 Service Serial Number  
 Service Entrance Date  
 Service Discharge Date  
 Type of Military Discharge

Medical Information

Health Status  
 Degree of Alcohol Use

Merit Staff Information

Hearing Date  
 Grade Prior to Hearing  
 Merit Staff Action  
 Grade After Merit Staff  
 Hearing

Parole Information

Returned Parole Violator  
 Parole Agent

Prisoner Review Board Infor-  
 mation

Current Prisoner Review  
 Board Hearing Results  
 Date of Hearing  
 Type of Hearing  
 Results of Hearing  
 Special Orders of Parole/  
 Release

Offense Information

Offense	Felony - Misdemeanor
Date of Sentencing	Minimum Sentence
Indictment Number	Maximum Sentence
Sentencing Judge	Type of Admission
County of Sentencing	Admitting Institution
Concurrent or Consecutive Sentence	Final Discharge Eligibility Date
Plea	Current Release Date
Court Disposition	Mandatory Release Date
Number of Counts	Total Compensatory Time
Class of Crime	Last Date Compensatory Time Updated

Appendix F

Property Insurance Loss Register (PILR)  
Data Elements

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Insured Name	Identifies the last name, first name, and middle initial of the insured. Includes space for maiden name or AKA
Insured Age	Identifies the age of the insured
Insured Sex	Codes the sex of the insured
Spouse Name	Identifies the last name, first name, and middle initial of the insured's spouse. Includes space for maiden name or AKA
Spouse Age	Identifies the age of the insured's spouse
Spouse Sex	Codes the sex of the insured's spouse
Current Address	Identifies the current address of the insured including street, apt. #, city, state, and zip code
Previous Address	Identifies the previous address of the insured including street, apt. #, city, state, and zip code
Location	Identifies the location of the loss including street, apt. no., city, county, state, and zip code
Loss Date	Identifies the date of the loss (MM/DD/YY)
Loss Time	Identifies the time of the loss using standard clock time (i.e., AM or PM)
Company	Identifies the insurance company carrying the policy on the property
Policy Number	Identifies the insurance company's policy number
Claim Number	Identifies the insurance company's claim number

NOTE: Each of the next five elements is divided into the following categories:

- Building
- Contents
- Stock
- Use & Occupancy
- Other

Policy Amount	Identifies the amount of the insurance policy
Total Insurance	Used if more than one policy

Replacement Cost	Identifies the cash value of replacement costs
Actual Value	Identifies the actual cash value of the property loss in the above categories
Estimated Loss	Identifies the estimated loss in each of the above categories
Known Cause	Identifies the known cause of the loss
Report Reviewed	Codes whether the adjuster has reviewed the fire department report
Property Type	Codes the type of property involved in the loss such as dwelling, multi-dwelling, commercial, industrial, or other
Status	Codes the status of the building such as vacant or under construction
Number of Losses	Identifies the insured's number of fire losses in the last five years
Business Type	Codes the type of business
Other Parties	Codes the relationship of other parties to the loss. Included are codes for partner, agent, attorney, corporate officer, second mortgages, public adjuster, tenant, contractor, occupant, first mortgages, and other
Other Names	The person completing the PILR form is free to provide information on other parties to the loss using the codes listed in "Other Parties" above. This information includes last name, first name, middle initial, AKA, street, apt. no., city, state, and zip code

## Appendix G

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)  
Data Elements

ITEM -----	DESCRIPTION -----
Dept. ID	Identifies a fire department with a unique identification number within the state
Incident No.	ID number assigned to each fire incident - unique to to each agency
Exposure No.	Identifies the number of fires that are a consequence of the original fire
Date	The month, day, and year the alarm was received
Day of Week	Codes the day of the week the alarm was received
Alarm Time	24 hour clock time alarm was received
Time Arrived	24 hour clock time equipment arrived at fire scene
Time In Service	24 hour clock time when equipment is again ready to respond to alarms - definition may vary
Address	Identifies exact location of fire or incident and includes zip-code
Census Tract	Identifies area using U.S. Census Bureau codes
Occupant Name	Identifies the person or business that occupies the property
Telephone	Area code and phone number of occupant
Room or Apt. No.	Room or apartment number of occupant if applicable
Owner Name	Identifies owner of property if not the same as occupant. Includes address and phone number
Alarm Method	Codes the first device used to notify a fire department of an incident
Situation	Codes the observed condition of the incident when the first emergency unit arrived
Action Taken	Codes the duties performed at the emergency scene by the responding fire department
Inspection Dist.	Identifies the fire company that has responsibility for inspection service where the incident occurred
Shift	Identifies the shift on duty which responded to the incident



Alarms	The number of alarms transmitted - defined at the local level
Mutual Aid	Fire department response to an area whose fire protection is the responsibility of another fire department (code - received or given)
Personnel	Number of fire service personnel actually used at the incident
Engines	The total number of engines (pumpers) used at the incident
Aerial Apparatus	The total number of aerial apparatus actually used at the incident
Other Vehicles	The total number of other vehicles actually used at the incident
Injuries	Number of people injured as a result of the incident or the handling of the incident. Divided into two categories-fire service personnel and others
Fatalities	Number of persons fatally injured as a result of the incident or the handling of the incident. Divided into two categories-fire service personnel and other
Complex	Codes incident in multiple use properties such as hotels, apartment buildings, prisons etc.
Property Use	Codes the use of the particular property where the fire occurred
Mobile Property	Codes the identity of property which was designed to be movable such as a car or trailer
Fire Area Origin	Codes the primary use of the area where the fire originated
Origin Level	Codes the place where the fire originated in relation to ground level (above/below ground or water level)
Termination	Codes the highest stage of development that a fire reaches such as smoldering, open flame etc.
Ignition Equip.	Codes the equipment, if any, which provided the principal heat that caused ignition
Ignition Form	Codes the heat energy form which starts the fire such as spark, electrical equipment, spontaneous, explosives, etc.

Material Type	Codes the composition of the material which was first ignited by the heat source
Material Form	Codes the use of the material first ignited in the fire such as floor covering, awning, etc.
Ignition Factor	Codes the condition or situation that allowed the heat source and combustible material to combine or start a fire. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 Incendiary - Fire deliberately set, not during civil disturbance</li> <li>12 Incendiary - Fire deliberately set, during civil disturbance</li> <li>21 Suspicious - Fire may have been deliberately set, not during civil disturbance</li> <li>22 Suspicious - Fire may have been deliberately set, during civil disturbance</li> </ul>
Structure Type	Codes the type of structure involved in the fire
Construction	Codes the material and type of construction used in the structure where the fire occurred such as fire resistive, heavy frame, brick etc.
Method	Codes where the structure was actually constructed and how it was assembled or erected at its present location
Flame Damage	Codes the size of the fire in terms of how far flame damage was extended such as confined to object or room of origin, entire structure etc.
Smoke Damage	Codes the size of the area damaged by heat or smoke as in "Flame Damage"
Water Damage	Codes the extent of area damaged by water or other extinguishing material as in "Flame Damage"
Control Damage	Codes the extent of damage caused in the process of confining or extinguishing the fire and includes forced entry, ventilation holes etc. as in "Flame Damage"
Detectors	Codes the existence and location of fire detection equipment and whether the equipment worked
Sprinkler	Codes the presence of sprinklers or other automatic extinguishing equipment and whether they worked
Most Flame	Codes the type of material which was most significant in contributing to the amount of flame or fire development for structure fires that spread beyond the room of origin

Most Smoke	Codes the type of material causing the most smoke as in "Most Flame" above
Flame Travel	Codes the single most important avenue which allowed rapid, unusual or intense flame spread for structure fires which spread beyond the room of origin
Smoke Travel	Codes the main avenue along which smoke traveled from the room or area of origin in a structure fire
Extinguishment	Codes the method of extinguishment including actions taken by fire department, others, sprinklers etc.
Dollar Loss	Estimate of the actual dollar loss to contents and structure
Property Loss	Codes the identification of the fire loss into broad monetary categories. Note - Used because it is often difficult to establish a precise monetary loss estimate and as a check for "Dollar Loss" above
Application Time	Codes the time lapse from receipt of the alarm to the first application of an extinguishing agent
Mobile Property	If property is designed to be movable under its own power or towed, these fields give the year, make, model, serial no., and license no. if any
Equipment	If equipment was involved in the ignition, these fields give the year, make, model, serial no. and voltage if any

## CASUALTY REPORT

Casualty Name	The last name, first name, and middle initial of the casualty
Birth Date	Date of birth of the casualty (MM/DD/YY)
Age	The age of the casualty in years
Time of Injury	The time of day when the injury occurred using the 24 hour clock
Casualty Number	Unique number assigned to each casualty occurring at a single incident or resulting from the incident
Home Address	Identifies the casualty's residence including city, address, state, and zip code

Telephone	Identifies the casualty's phone number including area code
Sex	Identifies the casualty's sex
Casualty Type	Codes the circumstances under which the casualty occurred (fire casualty, action casualty, emergency medical services casualty)
Severity	Codes whether the casualty was injured or killed
Affiliation	Codes the identity of the population group suffering the casualty (fire service, other emergency personnel, civilian)
Familiarity	Codes the familiarity of the casualty with the structure where the death or injury occurred
Location	Codes the location of the casualty in relation to where the fire started
Condition	Codes the physical or mental state of the person shortly before becoming a casualty
Escape	Codes the most significant condition preventing the casualty's escape
Activity	Codes the action or activity in which the person was engaged at the time of injury or death
Injury Cause	Codes the physical event that caused the injury such as trapped, stepped on, struck by etc.
Nature of Injury	Codes the type of injury (most serious) received by the casualty
Part Injured	Codes the part of the body which sustained the injury
Disposition	Codes the action taken by emergency personnel in providing care or assisting the casualty in seeking medical attention such as refused help, treated at scene, died, taken to hospital etc.

## GLOSSARY

ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSING - indicates that the reporting police agency has ceased investigating the reported offense that the record pertains to.

ADULT - a person aged 17 years or older.

BOND - an obligation (to appear in court) made binding by money forfeit; also, the amount of money forfeited.

CASE STATUS - indicates the status of a property loss offense at the time of reporting (i.e., pending investigation, cleared by arrest, administratively closed).

CCG's - are analytical units formed by classifying all Illinois counties (except Cook County) as Metropolitan, non-Metropolitan, or non-Metropolitan with a city of over 25,000 population. Cook County is counted as a single CCG. See Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, Fiscal Year 1979 State Plan, pp. i, I-3, for a more detailed definition of CCG's.

CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HOMICIDE - indicates whether or not the homicide was due to arson.

COMMITMENT - the action of a judicial officer ordering a convicted and sentenced person to be admitted to a corrections facility.

COMPLAINT - a formal and written accusation made by any person, often a prosecutor, and filed in a court, alleging that a specified person(s) committed a specific offense(s).

DAY OFFENSE - a reported offense occurring between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

EXCEPTIONAL CLEARANCE - indicates that the reported offense did not result in an arrest for an unusual reason (i.e., suicide of offender, offender killed by police).

INCENDIARY - involving a deliberate burning of property.

INDICTMENT - a formal written accusation made by a grand jury in a court, alleging that a specified person(s) has committed a specific offense(s).

INFORMATION - a formal written accusation made by a prosecutor and filed in a court, alleging that a specified person(s) has committed a specific offense(s).

JUDGEMENT - the statement of the decision of a court, that the defendant is convicted or acquitted of the offense(s) charged.

JUVENILE - a person 16 years of age or younger.

KNOWN CAUSE OF LOSS - indicates the cause of the fire (i.e., grease fire, faulty gas or electrical lines). The entries made in this field by insurance companies are not regulated by PILR, except that "arson" is not an acceptable entry.

LEGAL STATUS - indicates the status of the person arrested (i.e., parolee, escapee, new arrestee).

NIGHT OFFENSE - a reported offense occurring between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

OFFENSE ACTUALLY OCCURRING - equals the total number of offenses minus the number of offenses unfounded and the number referred to another agency.

OFFENSE CLEARED - indicates that a reported offense has been brought to a final disposition by a police agency.

OFFENSE UNFOUNDED - indicates that investigation has proved the reported offense to be false or baseless.

ORDER - a written direction issued by the court.

POLICE DISPOSITION - indicates the disposition of an arrested person (i.e., held for prosecution, released, referred to another agency).

SENTENCE - the penalty imposed by a court upon a convicted person.

SITUATION CODE - indicates whether or not multiple victims and/or offenders are involved in a homicide.

SMSA - a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census as follows: "...a city of more than 50,000 and the county in which this city is located plus other cities which exhibit strong ties with the city. The county sheriff's office is also included for crime reporting purposes" (Illinois Department of Law Enforcement, Crime in Illinois, 1978, p. 139).

WEAPON USED - identifies homicides due to the use of explosives.

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**END**

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