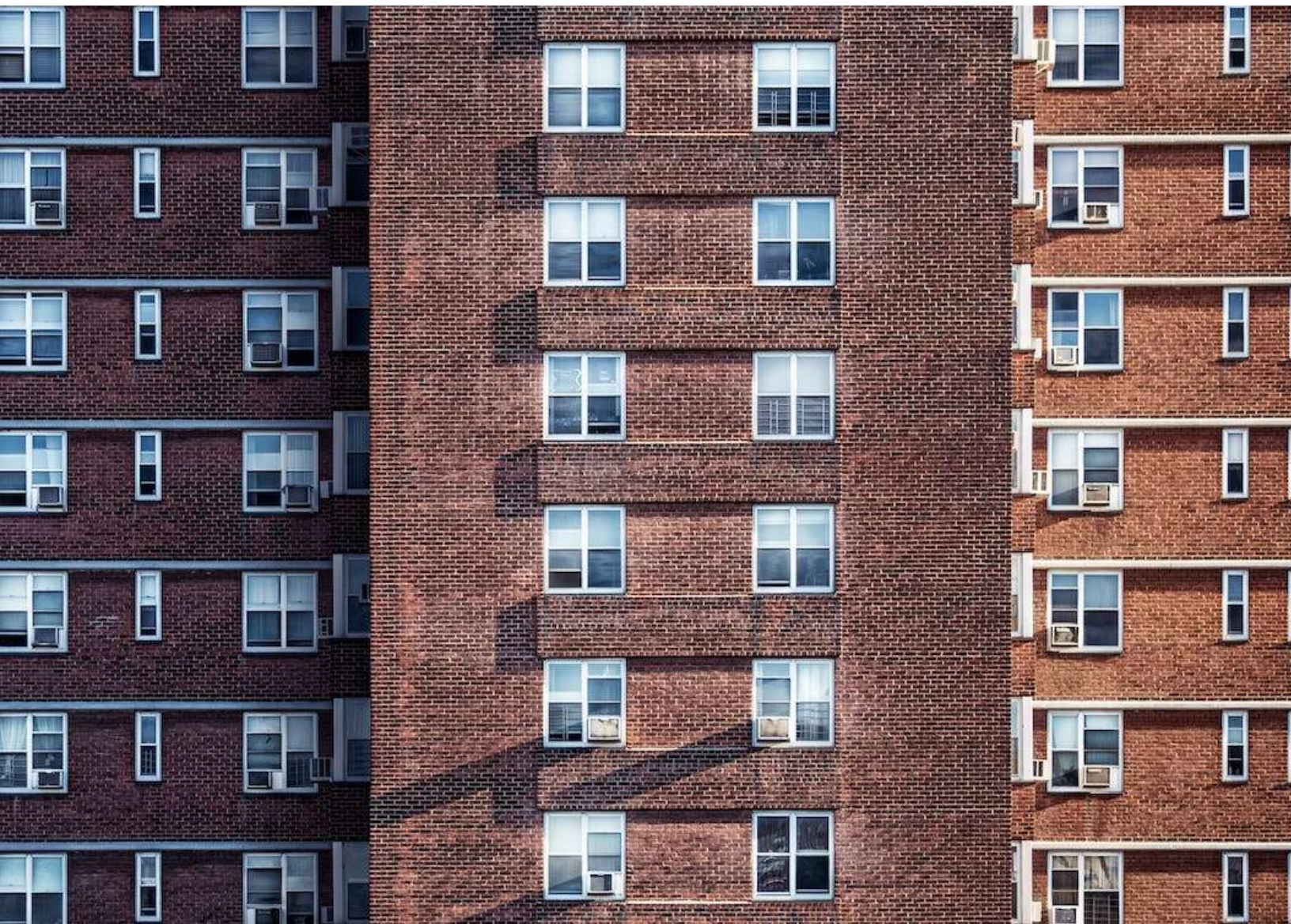




CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS FOR FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING APPLICATIONS

2023 REPORT



CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS FOR FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING APPLICATIONS: 2023 REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR
AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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BACKGROUND

Around five million low-income U.S. households, including over 220,000 Illinois households, utilize federally assisted housing (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2022). Nearly nine out of ten households receiving assistance are supported by three rental assistance programs overseen by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered locally by public housing authorities (PHAs) (see Text Box 1; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2022). Like other individuals with limited incomes, those with criminal histories may apply for federally assisted housing to support themselves and their families. Yet the policies of PHAs vary regarding the circumstances under which people with criminal justice histories can obtain and retain public housing. Prior research has found that housing authorities were more restrictive towards those with criminal histories than required by federal law (Purtle et al., 2020). Such restrictions may be due, in part, to the discretion and variability of authorities' admission decisions as well as to the broad language in guidance provided by HUD policies. Restrictions can reduce the number of persons with criminal histories who apply for, and obtain, subsidized housing, thereby exacerbating the challenges to securing affordable housing (Keene et al., 2018).

The Housing Authorities Act (310 ILCS 10/8.10a) (the Act) states that all Illinois PHAs are to collect and report the following information annually to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA):

- (1) The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing.
- (2) The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing of individuals with a criminal history record, if the authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members.
- (3) The number of applications for admission to federally assisted housing that were denied on the basis of a criminal history record, if the authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members.
- (4) The number of criminal records assessment hearings requested by applicants for housing who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check.
- (5) The number of denials for federally assisted housing that were overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing.

Rental Assistance Programs

Housing Choice Voucher Program

assists individuals and families with low incomes use vouchers to help pay for privately owned housing.

Project-Based Rental Assistance assist households with low incomes to live in affordable homes by contracting with private owners to rent some or all of the units in their housing developments to low-income families.

Public Housing assists low-income families to live in public housing development units.

This information must also be disaggregated by the race, ethnicity, and sex of housing applicants (310 ILCS 10/8.10a) (Appendix A).

In fulfillment of this Act, ICJIA produces annual reports which are made available for free on its website. This is the report for calendar year 2023 and provides information shared with ICJIA by PHAs.

DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

ADMINISTRATION OF DATA COLLECTION TOOL

ICJIA staff contacted officials at the Illinois Association of Housing Authorities (IAHA) who agreed to distribute ICJIA's 2023 calendar year data collection tool to their association's member list via email. Three Illinois PHAs who were not IAHA members were contacted individually via email and phone to ensure the tool was received and accessible. The data collection tool was created using Qualtrics online software and could be accessed via a URL link as well as a scannable QR code (Appendix B). Data collection began on January 12, 2024, and ended on February 20, 2024. Four reminder emails were sent to PHAs to encourage participation during its open period (on January 22 and 29 and on February 5 and 9). During data collection, ICJIA staff were available to assist PHAs by phone or email to address any questions or issues. ICJIA staff also directly contacted non-respondents one week before closing the data collection tool via phone, including voice messages, or email to confirm PHAs received the tool and to offer additional support. Out of 108 Illinois PHAs organized under the Act, 80 responded, resulting in a participation rate of 74.1% for the calendar year 2023 data collection.

DATA ANALYSIS

After exporting the results from the online Qualtrics tool, ICJIA staff analyzed the data provided by PHAs using Microsoft Excel. Following review, staff contacted PHAs with data that appeared incorrect (e.g., relatively very high or low reported numbers) or PHAs for whom there were multiple entries. The submitting authorities clarified these discrepancies and ICJIA staff adjusted the reported information accordingly.

DATA LIMITATIONS

Despite our efforts for complete compliance by PHAs, the data had several limitations. First, not all Illinois PHAs submitted information. Second, ICJIA staff cannot verify the accuracy of the data reported. Finally, many PHAs provided incomplete or missing data. Like prior reporting under the Act (Maranville et al., 2023), many PHAs shared their issues regarding the data collection process, data reporting, and data availability. PHA comments are shared in Appendix C.

RESULTS

RESPONDENTS

Out of 108 Illinois PHAs organized under the Act, 80 responded, resulting in a participation rate of 74.1%. Of those who provided data, 62 were county housing authorities (77.5%), 16 were city housing authorities (20%), and two were housing authorities that are designated as a village/town (2.5%). Thirty-three of the 80 PHAs who submitted data were in the central region of the state (41.3%), 28 were in the southern region (35%), and 19 were in the northern region (23.8%). Of the 80 PHAs that reported data, 30 served areas with populations of less than 20,000 residents (37.5%), and 24 had populations between 20,000 and 40,000 (30%). Twelve PHAs served areas with populations between 40,000 and 100,000 (15%), and 14 served areas with populations over 100,000 (17.5%). Forty-four of the 80 PHAs (55%) were in urban areas and 36 (45%) were in rural areas. Table 1 provides details on the PHAs that provided data.

Table 1
Public Housing Authorities That Provided Data, 2023

Housing Authority Name	Geographic Area	Geographic Region	Community Type	Population
Adams County*	County	Central	Mostly Urban	64,725
Alexander County	County	South	Mostly Rural	4,858
Aurora	City	North	Mostly Urban	177,866
Bloomington	City	Central	Mostly Urban	78,864
Boone County	County	North	Mostly Urban	53,154
Brown County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	6,330
Bureau County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	32,828
Carroll County	County	North	Mostly Rural	15,529
Cass County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	12,657
Champaign County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	206,542
Chicago	City	North	Mostly Urban	2,665,039
Cicero	Town	North	Mostly Urban	81,919
Clark County	County	South	Mostly Rural	15,229
Clay County	County	South	Mostly Rural	13,047
Cumberland County	County	South	Completely Rural	10,324
DeKalb County	County	North	Mostly Urban	100,232
DeWitt County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	15,310
East Peoria	City	Central	Mostly Urban	22,136
Edgar County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	16,433
Edwards County	County	South	Completely Rural	6,071
Effingham County	County	South	Mostly Rural	34,325
Franklin County	County	South	Mostly Urban	37,242
Freeport	City	North	Mostly Urban	23,413
Fulton County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	33,021

Gallatin County	County	South	Completely Rural	4,855
Granite City	City	South	Mostly Urban	27,121
Greene County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	11,651
Grundy County	County	North	Mostly Urban	53,041
Hamilton County	County	South	Mostly Rural	7,984
Hardin County	County	South	Completely Rural	3,597
Henderson County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	6,151
Henry County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	48,419
Jackson County	County	South	Mostly Urban	52,617
Jefferson County*	County	South	Mostly Rural	36,400
Jersey County	County	South	Mostly Rural	21,246
JoDaviess County	County	North	Mostly Rural	21,758
Johnson County	County	South	Completely Rural	13,381
Kankakee County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	106,074
Lake County*	County	North	Mostly Urban	709,150
LaSalle County	County	North	Mostly Urban	108,078
Lawrence County	County	South	Mostly Rural	14,914
Lee County	County	North	Mostly Rural	33,848
Livingston County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	35,521
Logan County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	27,591
Macoupin County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	44,245
Marion County	County	South	Mostly Urban	36,914
Marion	City	South	Mostly Urban	16,729
McDonough County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	26,861
McHenry County	County	North	Mostly Urban	311,747
McLean County*	County	Central	Mostly Urban	171,141
Menard County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	12,121
Mercer County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	15,504
Moline	City	Central	Mostly Urban	42,028
Morgan County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	32,209
Mt. Vernon	City	South	Mostly Rural	14,284
North Chicago	City	North	Mostly Urban	30,490
Ogle County	County	North	Mostly Urban	51,351
Park Forest	Village	North	Mostly Urban	20,954
Pekin	City	Central	Mostly Urban	31,260
Peoria	City	Central	Mostly Urban	111,021
Piatt County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	16,723
Pike County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	14,484
Pope County	County	South	Completely Rural	3,770
Pulaski County	County	South	Completely Rural	4,991

Quincy	City	Central	Mostly Urban	38,942
Randolph County	County	South	Mostly Urban	30,068
Richland County	County	South	Mostly Urban	15,435
Rockford	City	North	Mostly Urban	146,713
Saline County	County	South	Mostly Urban	23,087
Scott County	County	Central	Completely Rural	4,790
Shelby County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	20,761
Springfield	City	Central	Mostly Urban	113,273
St. Clair County*	County	South	Mostly Urban	252,671
Union County	County	South	Mostly Rural	16,767
Warren County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	16,354
Waukegan	City	North	Mostly Urban	87,976
Wayne County	County	South	Mostly Rural	15,872
Williamson County*	County	South	Mostly Urban	66,695
Winnebago County*	County	North	Mostly Urban	282,188
Woodford County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	38,128

Note. Population from the U.S. Census Bureau's estimate for 2022, the most current data available (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/IL/PST045223>). Community type for city housing authorities was based on the designation of the county the city is in and used decennial (2010) census data. Counties with less than 50% of the population living in rural areas are classified as mostly urban; 50 to 99.9% are classified as mostly rural; 100% rural are classified as completely rural.

(https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/reference/ua/County_Rural_Lookup_v4.pdf).

*Indicates county-level housing authorities with city-level housing authorities within their jurisdiction. Those county housing authorities include the population of the cities located in the county.

Twenty-eight PHAs, or 25.9% of all 108 Illinois PHAs, *did not* provide calendar year 2023 data to ICJIA. Table 2 provides details on the housing authorities that *did not* provide data.

Table 2
Public Housing Authorities That Did Not Provide Data, 2023

Housing Authority Name	City or County	Geographic Region	Community Type	Population
Alton	City	South	Mostly Urban	25,217
Bond County	County	South	Mostly Rural	16,566
Calhoun County	County	South	Completely Rural	4,360
Christian County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	33,436
Coles County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	46,334
Cook County*	County	North	Mostly Urban	5,109,292
Danville	City	Central	Mostly Urban	28,472
Decatur	City	Central	Mostly Urban	69,097
DuPage County	County	North	Mostly Urban	920,901
East St. Louis	City	South	Mostly Urban	17,919
Elgin	City	North	Mostly Urban	113,177
Ford County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	13,249
Greater Metro Area of Rock Island County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	141,527
Hancock County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	17,244
Joliet	City	North	Mostly Urban	150,033
Kendall County	County	North	Mostly Urban	137,254
Knox County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	48,640
Madison County*	County	South	Mostly Urban	263,864
Mason County	County	Central	Mostly Rural	12,748
Massac County	County	South	Mostly Rural	13,896
Montgomery County	County	Central	Mostly Urban	28,020
Perry County	County	South	Mostly Urban	20,588
Rock Island	City	Central	Mostly Urban	141,527
Vermilion County*	County	Central	Mostly Urban	72,337
Village of Oak Park	Village	North	Mostly Urban	52,553
Wabash County	County	South	Mostly Urban	11,087
White County	County	South	Mostly Rural	13,614
Whiteside County	County	North	Mostly Urban	54,658

Note. Population from the U.S. Census Bureau’s estimate for 2022, the most current data available (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/IL/PST045223>). Community type for city housing authorities was based on the designation of the county the city is in and used decennial (2010) census data. Counties with less than 50 percent of the population living in rural areas are classified as mostly urban; 50 to 99.9 percent are classified as mostly rural; 100 percent rural are classified as completely rural. (https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/reference/ua/County_Rural_Lookup_v4.pdf).

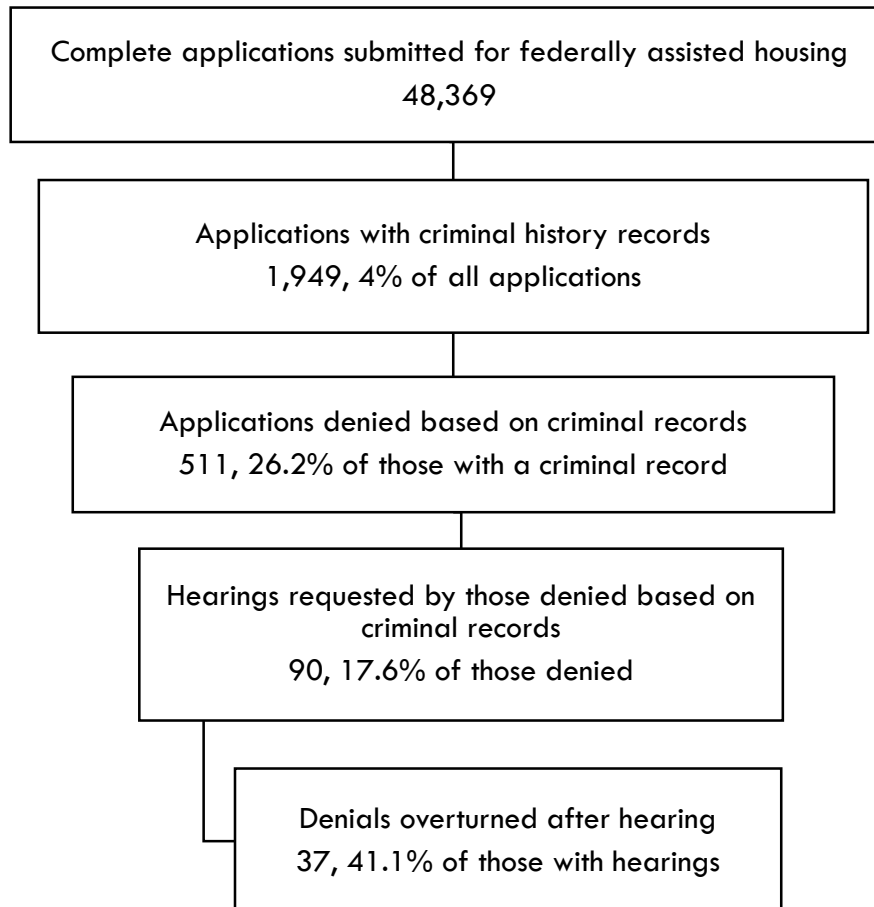
*Indicates county-level housing authorities with city-level housing authorities within their jurisdiction. Those county housing authorities include the population of the cities located in the county.

RESPONSES

The Illinois PHAs that reported to ICJIA had a total of 48,369 complete applications submitted in calendar year 2023 for admission to federally assisted housing (Figure 1).

Figure 1

The Flow of Applications for Federal Housing with Criminal Records and Subsequent Hearings



Note. Data were from 80 housing authorities reporting to ICJIA for calendar year 2023.

Tables 3, 4, and 5 present the breakdown of data across categories within each demographic requested by the Act (gender, race, and ethnicity). The descriptive paragraphs above each table detail the data in a different manner; specifically, within each demographic category and make comparisons when applicable. In doing so, the distributions and proportions of applications within and across demographics are illuminated.

In calendar year 2023, more females submitted applications for admission to federally assisted housing than males or other genders. Of the 31,739 applications submitted by females, 1,043 (3.3%) had a criminal history record noted by authorities. Males had a slightly higher proportion of applications with a criminal history record (5.9%), and males also had a moderately higher rate of denial (31.4%) compared to females (21.6%). Male and female applicants appealed their denials at nearly the same rate, 21.5%, and 20.4%, respectively. However, 45.7% of denials were overturned for females as compared to 36.4% for males. Table 3 provides details of the housing authority applications by gender for 2023. Of the data on gender, PHAs did not provide information for nine to 12% of applications on gender.

Table 3
Public Housing Authority Applications by Gender, 2023

	Male		Female		Other Gender		Unknown/ Not Reported		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing	12,093	25	31,739	65.6	192	0.4	4,345	9	48,369
Applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing of individuals with a criminal history record	710	36.4	1,043	53.5	0	0	196	10.1	1,949
Applications for admission to federally assisted housing that were denied on the basis of a criminal history record	223	43.6	225	44	0	0	63	12.3	511
Criminal records assessment hearings requested by applicants for housing who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check	44	48.9	46	51.1	0	0	0	0	90
Denials for federally assisted housing that was overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing	16	43.2	21	56.8	0	0	0	0	37
Total	13,086	197	33,074	271	192	0	4,604	31	50,956

Note. Data were from 80 housing authorities reporting to ICJIA for calendar year 2023.

Overall, Black or African American persons submitted more applications than any other race (23,319, 48.2%). White persons submitted 15,133 (31.3%) of all applications; and multi-racial, Asian, or persons of other races constituted 4.9% of applications submitted (with the remainder being of unknown or unreported race). Of the 15,133 applications submitted by White persons, 1,032 (6.8%) had a criminal history record noted by a PHA; of these, 243 (23.6%) were denied

based on their criminal record; 62 of these 243 White persons (25.5%) requested an appeal hearing; and 17 of these requests (27.4%) had their denial overturned.

Of the 23,319 applications submitted by Black or African American persons, 650 (2.9%) had a criminal record history noted by a PHA. Of these 650 Black persons, 200 (30.8%) were denied based on their criminal record, 28 of whom (14%) requested an appeal hearing. Ten of these 28 (35.7%) had their denial overturned.

Of the 2,340 applications submitted by multi-racial, Asian, or persons of other races, 35 (1.5%) had a criminal history record noted by a PHA; five in this group of 35 (14.3%) were denied based on their record, and no applicant requested an appeal hearing.

Table 4 provides details of the housing authority applications by race for 2023. Of the data on race, PHAs did not provide race information for 12-15% of applications and 27% of overturned denials (as reflected and explained in their survey feedback in Appendix C).

Table 4
Public Housing Authority Applications by Race, 2023

	White		Black/ African American		Asian		Other/ Mixed Race		Unknown/ Not Reported		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing	15,133	48.2	23,319	31.3	474	1	1,866	3.9	7,577	15.7	48,369
Applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing of individuals with a criminal history record	1,032	53	650	33.4	5	0.3	30	1.5	232	11.9	1,949
Applications for admission to federally assisted housing that were denied on the basis of a criminal history record	243	47.6	200	39.1	0	0	5	1	63	12.3	511
Criminal records assessment hearings requested by applicants for housing who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check	62	68.9	28	31.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	90
Denials for federally assisted housing that was overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing	17	46	10	27	0	0	0	0	10	27	37
Total	16,487	264	24,207	162	479	1	1,901	6	7,882	67	50,956

Note. Data were from 80 housing authorities reporting to ICJIA for calendar year 2023.

The data collection tool asked PHAs to report Hispanic/Latinx applicants. Therefore, we categorized the other applicants as either not Hispanic/Latinx or unknown. The ethnicity of almost all applicants (94.9%) was either not Hispanic/Latinx or unknown (Table 5). Among applicants identified as Hispanic/Latinx, 39 (1.5%) had a criminal history reported by a PHA in calendar year 2023. Of these 39, seven (18%) were denied based on their criminal history record, and only one of them appealed; that denial was not overturned.

Table 5
Public Housing Authority Applications by Ethnicity, 2023

	Hispanic/Latinx		Not Hispanic/Latinx or Unknown		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing	2,489	5.1	45,880	94.9	48,369
Applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing of individuals with a criminal history record	39	2	1,910	98	1,949
Applications for admission to federally assisted housing that were denied on the basis of a criminal history record	7	1.4	504	98.6	511
Criminal records assessment hearings requested by applicants for housing who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check	1	1.1	89	98.9	90
Denials for federally assisted housing that was overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing	0	0	37	100	37
Total	2,536	10	48,420	490	50,956

Note. Data from 80 housing authorities reporting to ICJIA for calendar year 2023.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM HOUSING AUTHORITIES

The data collection tool asked housing authorities for feedback on their experiences with data reporting and data availability in the Federally Assisted Housing Records Check data collection process. Below, we briefly summarize the feedback shared. Comments from housing authorities are in Appendix C.

STAFF AND SOFTWARE ISSUES

Respondents from some housing authorities noted that the data collection process and reporting were burdensome for staff to complete. Others reported challenges with software and its ability to easily generate or source the requested information of the Act.

DATA DISCREPANCIES OR CHALLENGES

Numerous PHAs shared that they could only provide incomplete information requested under the Act. In addition, a respondent from one housing authority stated it only collected data required by HUD and, because of this, did not track criminal history records information.

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APPENDIX A: 310 ILCS 10/8.10(a)

- (a) Every Authority organized under the provisions of this Act shall collect the following:
- (1) The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing;
 - (2) The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing by individuals with a criminal history record, if the Authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members;
 - (3) The number of applications for admission to federally assisted housing that were denied on the basis of a criminal history record, if the Authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members;
 - (4) The number of criminal records assessment hearings requested by applicants for housing who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check; and
 - (5) The number of denials for federally assisted housing that were overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing.
- (b) The information required in this Section shall be disaggregated by the race, ethnicity, and sex of applicants for housing. This information shall be reported to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and shall be compiled and reported to the General Assembly annually by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority shall also make this report publicly available, including on its website, without fee.

Source: P.A. 101-659, eff. 3-23-21

APPENDIX B: DATA COLLECTION TOOL

Public Act 101-0659/Senate Bill 1980 requires *all housing voucher programs and public housing programs* in Illinois to collect the requested information included in this survey. This includes both applications for publicly operated housing as well as privatized housing from vouchers. Per statute requirements, this information shall be reported to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Per the Act, the following information must be reported:

- (1) The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing.
- (2) The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing of individuals with a criminal history record, if the Authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members.
- (3) The number of applications for admission to federally assisted housing that were denied on the basis of a criminal history record, if the Authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members.
- (4) The number of criminal records assessment hearings requested by applicants for housing who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check.
- (5) The number of denials for federally assisted housing that were overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing.

Also, the above information is required to be disaggregated by the race, ethnicity, and sex of applicants for housing.

You can pause and resume this survey. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Maranville at ryan.maranville@illinois.gov

Person completing this form:

Please provide your email:

What is the name of your Housing Authority?

In calendar year 2023, what was the *total number of complete applications* submitted to your Housing Authority for admission to federally assisted housing?

Of those who submitted complete applications in calendar year 2023, what were their gender(s)?
Please select one category per application.

Male: _____

Female: _____

Non-binary/third gender: _____

Total: _____

Of those who submitted complete applications in calendar year 2023, what were their race(s)?
Please select one category per application.

White: _____

Black or African American: _____

American Indian or Alaska Native: _____

Asian: _____

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: _____

Multi-Racial: _____

Total: _____

Of those who submitted complete applications in calendar year 2023, how many were Hispanic/Latinx?

If your authority did not collect the total number of applications submitted for federally assisted housing, or have incomplete information like missing demographics, please indicate and describe below. Otherwise, please move to the next section.

Did your authority conduct criminal records checks on federally assisted housing applicants, or other household members, during calendar year 2023?

Yes

No

In calendar year 2023 at your Housing Authority, what were the total number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing *with a criminal history record*?

*For the purpose of our data collection, a **criminal history record** is information reported by Illinois criminal justice agencies summarizing a subject's contacts with the criminal justice system. Criminal history records may include arrests, detentions, indictments, or other formal criminal charges, as well as any disposition, sentencing, correctional supervision, and release.*

Of those with a criminal history record, what were their gender(s)? Please select one category per application.

Male: _____

Female: _____

Non-binary/third gender: _____

Total: _____

Of those with a criminal history record, what were their race(s)? Please select one category per application.

White: _____

Black or African American: _____

American Indian or Alaska Native: _____

Asian: _____

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: _____

Multi-Racial: _____

Total: _____

Of those with a criminal history record, how many were Hispanic/Latinx?

If your authority did not collect the total number of applications with a criminal history record, or have incomplete information like missing demographics, please indicate and describe below. Otherwise, please move to the next section.

In calendar year 2023 at your Housing Authority, how many applications for admission to federally assisted housing were *denied on the basis of a criminal history record*?

Of those who submitted applications and were denied on the basis of criminal history records, what were their gender(s)? Please select one category per denied application.

Male: _____

Female: _____

Non-binary/third gender: _____

Total: _____

Of those who submitted applications and were denied on the basis of criminal history records, what were their race(s)? Please select one category per denied application.

White: _____

Black or African American: _____

American Indian or Alaska Native: _____

Asian: _____

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: _____

Multi-Racial: _____

Total: _____

Of those who submitted applications and were denied on the basis of criminal history records, how many were Hispanic/Latinx?

If your authority did not collect the number of applications denied on the basis of a criminal history records check, or have incomplete information like missing demographics, please indicate and describe below. Otherwise, please move to the next section.

In calendar year 2023 at your Housing Authority, *how many criminal records assessment hearings* were requested by applicants who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check?

Of those who submitted applications, were denied housing, and requested an assessment hearing, what were their gender(s)? Please select one category per denied application which requested an assessment hearing.

Male: _____

Female: _____

Non-binary/third gender: _____

Total: _____

Of those who submitted applications, were denied housing, and requested an assessment hearing, what were their race(s)? Please select one category per denied application which requested an assessment hearing.

White: _____

Black or African American: _____

American Indian or Alaska Native: _____

Asian: _____

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: _____

Multi-Racial: _____

Total: _____

Of those who submitted applications, were denied housing, and requested an assessment hearing, how many were Hispanic/Latinx?

If your authority did not collect the number of criminal records assessment hearings requested by denied applicants, or have incomplete information like missing demographics, please indicate and describe below. Otherwise, please move to the next section.

In calendar year 2023 at your Housing Authority, how many denials for federally assisted housing were *overturned* after a criminal records assessment hearing?

Of those applications whose denials for housing were overturned following an assessment hearing, what were their gender(s)? Please select one category per application overturned.

Male: _____

Female: _____

Non-binary/third gender: _____

Total: _____

Of those applications whose denials for housing were overturned following an assessment hearing, what were their race(s)? Please select one category per application overturned.

White: _____

Black or African American: _____

American Indian or Alaska Native: _____

Asian: _____

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: _____

Multi-Racial: _____

Total: _____

Of those applications whose denials for housing were overturned following an assessment hearing, how many were Hispanic/Latinx?

If your authority did not collect the number of overturned denials following a hearing, or have incomplete information like missing demographics, please indicate and describe below. Otherwise, please move to the next section.

Finally, ICJIA would like feedback on your experience with the Federally Assisted Housing Records Check data collection process, regarding data reporting and data availability. If you have no feedback to share, please move to the next section.

You have reached the end of the Survey on Illinois' Federally Assisted Housing Applications. The information reported will be used to create a final report available March 2024. Also, if you have any questions or further comment, please contact Ryan Maranville at ryan.maranville@illinois.gov. Thank you for your participation.

APPENDIX C: FEEDBACK FROM HOUSING AUTHORITIES

On the data collection tool, ICJIA invited PHAs to provide feedback on their experiences with the data collection process, regarding data reporting and data availability. Their comments are provided below.

STAFF AND SOFTWARE ISSUES

- Reporting is burdensome.
- We wish our software had an option for a report similar to the needed info.
- Our reporting system does not have the parameters that allow a report to be pulled that is broken down by race, gender, or disability for a specific time period. Our system only allows a report to be pulled based on race, gender, or disability for the current day.
- Some of the ways the questions are worded is very hard to track documentation in our systems.
- The option of race is not available in background checks [software].
- Just one more thing for an overburdened staff to complete. The form itself is not difficult to complete; the time and effort come in tracking the data to complete the report.

DATA DISCREPANCIES OR CHALLENGES

- We only collect the data for the purposes required by HUD; we do not track [criminal records history] information by applicant.
- The information is incomplete. This is information from the Housing Choice Voucher program only. Also, in some cases, the information regarding race was omitted by the applicants. In other cases, the information was not gathered by the HCV office.
- Several families ported into our community but requested that their vouchers be returned to the initial housing authority when they could not find a unit to lease. Since they did not lease up, we did not enter them into our system. We then discarded their paperwork and cannot determine some of their demographics.
- Not all applicants provided race information.
- Applicants who did not "declare" or "indicate" a race were included in the multi-racial count.
- Demographics are an average because they are kept differently in our system.
- This information pertains only to the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. In some cases, the information regarding race and ethnicity was not collected. Either in error or [by] omission, the PHA did not document all records of criminal history.
- A criminal background check is only performed when an application is at the top of the waiting list and is being approved for move-in.
- Our HA has incomplete information concerning applicants with criminal history records.
- [We] did not collect the information. We will keep a record this year.
- Due to updated criminal history criteria, all applicants were eligible for the program. However, [our authority] did not track for an overall criminal record but will be sure to attain this date moving forward.

- We collect any criminal history data for applicants that is over 6 months old. As stated, we do not collect race data.
- We only have data on the applicants who were denied housing based on criminal history.
- Some families ported in from other housing authorities and we did not collect information regarding their criminal records.
- [We] did not have data of criminal background breakout of sex/gender.
- We only collect data pertaining to denials based on criminal history.
- [The] criminal background check only asks for gender.
- Our Housing Authority does criminal checks on all applicants. We have not recorded the breakdowns of those checks.
- Per law, our criminal background checks only go back 6 months from the application date. This significantly reduces the number of applicants with a criminal background history.
- Background checks are not obtained until eligibility is established.
- We do not check criminal histories until an applicant is pulled from a waiting list and is being considered for a federal housing program. This information is not available for the general pool of applicants.
- The information only pertains to the Housing Choice Voucher program, not public housing.
- [Our authority] abides by the Cook County Just Housing Amendment. As such, applicants are not denied housing on the basis of their criminal history record prior to an individualized assessment being conducted to confirm the accuracy or relevance of the criminal findings.
- We do not track sex or nationality for denials in our system.
- We do not collect race because it is not required to be completed by the applicant.
- We did not collect [number of applications denied] information.
- We did not track the number of hearings for 2023.
- [Our authority] did not track the number of hearings that resulted in denials being overturned.
- [We] do not track either demographic information or criminal records checks, appeals, denials or overturn information.
- We assess criminal convictions (not arrests) within three years during eligibility screening. Individualized assessments are conducted for all applicants with findings on their criminal history record. Applicants are not denied housing prior to an individualized evaluation. Appeals are part of the dispute resolution process. ICJIA should review this Cook County ordinance. Under the newly updated screening procedures, [our authority] does not screen for criminal conviction until a candidate is pre-qualified for housing (income requirements, employment, other screenings).