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## **State Tax Liens and the Business Cycle in McLean County (1999-2009)**

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Oral Presentation O8.2

**STATE TAX LIENS AND THE BUSINESS CYCLE  
IN MCLEAN COUNTY (1999-2009)**

Kyle Portnoy and Diego Mendez-Carbajo\*  
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The amount of state tax liens issued in a county may indicate the economic health of the community. A lien, or security interest, on a property is issued when taxes are not paid on time. This paper studies the economic health of McLean County, Illinois, the largest county in terms of area in Illinois. The data are reported on a monthly basis from 1999 to 2009. Due to the fact that state tax liens are issued by the state, there is no benefit to McLean County whether there are large or small amounts of liens issued. What can be said by the amount of liens issued, though, is the status of its economic health. The main hope of this study is to determine whether or not there is a trend, or pattern over a long period of time, in the data and to forecast the future of McLean County's economic health.