

Numbers Now.....

Criminal Justice in Oklahoma

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Oklahoma State Bureau of
Investigation

Harvey Pratt

Interim Director

Dave Page

Division Director
Information Services

Linda DeArman

Unit Supervisor
Data Collection and Analysis

Angie Baker

SAC Director

Carl Grafe

Statistical Research
Specialist

*A Publication of the
Oklahoma Statistical
Analysis Center*



Introducing the Office of Criminal Justice Statistics

The Office of Criminal Justice Statistics is housed in the Information Services Division at the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. The mission of the unit is to collect, analyze, and report accurate and timely criminal justice-related research and statistics to the law enforcement community.

In addition to Bureau responsibilities, the Office of Criminal Justice Statistics also houses the Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). Funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Oklahoma SAC contributes state-level research to the criminal justice community.

Staff is working on several projects, including:

- Deaths in Police Custody Reporting Program
- Oklahoma Crime Victimization Survey
- An Analysis of Domestic Violence Trends in Muskogee Using SIBRS Data
- Law Enforcement Bulletins (Various Topics)
- Law Enforcement Needs Assessment

The unit also completes research requests from criminal justice agencies, researchers, and the public. Staff disseminates research and statistics through newsletters and bulletins, which can be accessed on the OSBI Website.

Recently, staff distributed a needs assessment to the Oklahoma law enforcement community. Survey questions covered law enforcement, prosecution and adjudication, corrections, reentry and recidivism, and victimization. The questionnaire also included questions about future report format, dissemination, and participant demographics. Preliminary findings are presented below.

In this issue:

Oklahoma Law Enforcement Needs Assessment: Preliminary Results

The 2009 *Crime in Oklahoma* Report is now available online. For other publications, please check the OSBI Website at <http://www.osbi.ok.gov>

2010 Law Enforcement Needs Assessment: Preliminary Findings

The unit received 144 completed surveys. Results assisted the staff in better understanding the research needs of the Oklahoma law enforcement community. Staff used the results to plan this year's research agenda.

If a representative from your agency has not completed a survey, please contact the office for a copy (contact information is located at the bottom of the last page).

Survey Methodology

Staff designed the survey as a self-administered paper survey containing both ranked responses and open-ended questions; Data collection began in February. The target audience for the survey includes local and state law enforcement officers, county sheriffs, correctional officers, researchers, and victim advocates. Staff distributed the survey at the 2010 Oklahoma Law Enforcement Summit, the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Additionally, staff e-mailed and faxed the survey to all county sheriffs' offices and major police departments.

The survey is divided into two parts: areas of research and dissemination of research. Part one of the questionnaire includes questions about law enforcement, prosecution and adjudication, corrections, recidivism and reentry, victimization, and special topics. Part two of the questionnaire includes questions regarding dissemination of future research publications, format preferences for future publications, and optional resources and services. The survey also includes demographical questions and future survey preferences.

Survey Analysis

As of July 31, 2010, OCJS received 144 of the 343 surveys distributed, for a 42% response rate. Staff collected demographic information (see Table 1) and profession type (see Table 2). The majority of respondents were from police departments (54%) and served populations smaller than 25,000 (47%). Of the 341 surveys distributed to police departments, 77 were returned (23%); of the 77 sheriffs' offices, 32 completed surveys (42%).

Table 1. Size of Population Served

| Population | Frequency | Percent |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 24,999 or Less | 68 | 47.2 |
| 25,000-49,999 | 14 | 9.7 |
| 50,000-74,999 | 13 | 9.0 |
| 75,000-99,999 | 1 | 0.7 |
| 100,000 or More | 24 | 16.7 |
| Missing Survey Question | 24 | 16.7 |
| Total | 144 | 100.0 |

Table 2. Respondent Profession

| Profession | Frequency | Percent |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Law Enforcement | 77 | 53.5 |
| Sheriff | 32 | 22.2 |
| State Law Enforcement | 8 | 5.6 |
| District Attorney | 2 | 1.4 |
| Corrections | 1 | 0.7 |
| Victim Service Provider | 18 | 12.5 |
| Researcher | 2 | 1.4 |
| Other | 4 | 2.8 |
| Total | 144 | 100.0 |

Table 3. Preliminary Research Agenda Based on Results

| Topic | Research Area | Percent* | Related Project |
|--|------------------------------|----------|---|
| State Incident-Based Reporting | Law Enforcement | 33 | Using SIBRS Data to Analyze Domestic Violence in Muskogee |
| Criminal History Records | Law Enforcement | 28 | Using SIBRS Data to Analyze Domestic Violence in Muskogee |
| Public Attitudes About Crime and Police | Law Enforcement | 34 | Oklahoma Crime Victimization Survey |
| Evaluation of Prevention Programs | Law Enforcement | 26 | Evaluation of the OKC Gang and Violent Crime Program** |
| Felony Sentencing Data | Prosecution and Adjudication | 49 | *** |
| Domestic Violence Case Processing | Prosecution and Adjudication | 28 | Using SIBRS Data to Analyze Domestic Violence in Muskogee |
| Plea Bargaining | Prosecution and Adjudication | 37 | *** |
| Case Processing Time | Prosecution and Adjudication | 27 | *** |
| Violent and Nonviolent Incarceration Rates | Corrections | 43 | *** |
| Prison Gangs | Corrections | 27 | *** |
| Jail Population Trends | Corrections | 27 | *** |
| Probation | Corrections | 36 | *** |
| Incarceration Costs | Corrections | 36 | *** |
| Drug Courts | Corrections | 49 | *** |
| Rearrest Rates | Reentry and Recidivism | 79 | *** |
| Rehabilitation Programs | Reentry and Recidivism | 28 | *** |
| Sex Offender Reentry | Reentry and Recidivism | 55 | *** |
| Public Perception of Released Offenders | Reentry and Recidivism | 49 | Oklahoma Crime Victimization Survey |
| Characteristics of Crime | Victimization | 51 | Oklahoma Crime Victimization Survey |
| Crime Prevention Measures | Victimization | 47 | Oklahoma Crime Victimization Survey |
| Domestic Violence | Victimization | 62 | Using SIBRS Data to Analyze Domestic Violence in Muskogee |
| Juvenile Justice | Special Project | 50 | *** |

* Percent of Respondents that Ranked Response "Most Important"

** Project is Complete

*** Project in Planning Stages

Survey Results

As mentioned, staff designed the research agenda using the survey results (see Table 3). Respondents identified several key research areas including rearrest statistics (79%), domestic violence (62%), sex offender reentry (55%), and crime type, location, and time of day (51%).

Staff is already working on several of the topics that respondents identified as high priority (see Table 3).

Researchers will continue to collect statistics from other sources on those topics not addressed in the current research agenda. The needs assessment results are particularly helpful in identifying areas not covered by current unit research or outside agencies. Staff plans to incorporate identified areas into ongoing projects, while others, like the research areas listed as "special topics," may be addressed in a single-issue bulletin or newsletter.

With regard to dissemination of research and research services, 90% of respondents expressed interest in criminal justice statistics and 80% indicated interest in an annual needs assessment survey. Also, 78% of respondents were interested in grant application assistance, 76% in criminal justice directories, and 76% in crime maps (see Table 4). Sixty-two percent of respondents preferred future research and statistics

presented in a quarterly newsletter format. Based on results, staff plans to offer several services to the criminal justice community including research requests (58%), program evaluations (58%), and a monthly calendar (54%). In addition to a quarterly newsletter, staff will continue to disseminate research findings in two main formats: key findings (54%) and bulletins (52%).

Table 4. Online Services Requested (Two-Option Questions)

| Primary Services | Percent | Secondary Services | Percent |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Criminal Justice Statistics | 90 | Research Requests | 58 |
| Yearly Survey | 80 | Program Evaluations | 58 |
| Grant Application | 78 | Monthly Calendar | 54 |
| Law Enforcement Directory | 76 | Key Findings | 54 |
| Crime Mapping | 76 | Bulletins | 52 |
| Quarterly Newsletters | 62 | | |

Conclusion

The 2010 Law Enforcement Needs Assessment provided valuable insight into the research needs of the criminal justice community. Due to the strong response rate, staff identified several key projects for the upcoming year. In addition to the projects listed above, staff is also working on the unit's new web site, which will be accessible in spring 2011. Overall, the needs assessment proved to be an extremely valuable tool. The Office of Criminal Justice Statistics' Staff plan to continue administering the survey annually to assist in determining future research agendas for the Office of Criminal Justice Statistics.

58% of survey respondents said they would like OCJS to assist with research requests and program evaluations. If your agency needs assistance with research or statistics, please contact our office.

Employment Opportunity

The Office of Criminal Justice Statistics is currently recruiting 2 Statistical Research Specialists.

Successful candidates possess a bachelor's degree in sociology, criminology, criminal justice, or a related field. Coursework must include nine semester hours in statistics, statistical research methods, demographics, or social research statistics.

If selected, candidates must successfully pass an extensive background investigation, which will include a polygraph examination.

Please check the OSBI Website for more information.

Baker's Dozen

By: Angie Baker, SAC Director

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Here are 13 facts about domestic violence in Oklahoma for 2009:

1. Domestic violence is defined as “threatening, causing, or attempting to cause serious physical harm between family or household members”
2. Offenses include: murder, sex crimes, assault, and assault and battery
3. Family or household members are defined as spouses, former spouses, present spouses of former spouses, foster parents, children, boyfriends, girlfriends, persons otherwise related by blood or marriage, or living in the same household or who formerly lived in the same household
4. Domestic abuse reports have increased by 14.2% since 2000
5. In 2009, there were 25,189 reports of domestic violence in Oklahoma
6. Of the 25,189 reports of domestic violence, there were **60 murders**, 611 sex crimes, 3,437 assaults, and 21,081 incidents of assault and battery in Oklahoma
7. In 2009, there was a 17.6% increase in domestic violence murders
8. The most common day for domestic violence reports was Saturday
9. The most common time for domestic violence reports was between 12:01 am and 1:00 am
10. The most common offense for domestic violence was Assault and Battery
11. Depending on the circumstances, sentences for domestic violence range from 90 days in jail to, in the case of murder, death.
12. Sentence type and sentence length increase with each subsequent conviction
13. Additional resources can be found at www.ocadvsa.org or www.oag.state.ok.us

Source 2009 Crime in Oklahoma Report

BJS/JRSA 2010 National Conference

Using Statistics and Research to Improve Justice Policies and Procedures

SAC Staff will attend the 2010 BJS/JRSA National Conference on October 28-29 in Portland, Maine.

Staff will also attend pre-conference seminars related to victimization surveys and evaluation concepts. There will also be table sessions on various themes and an awards banquet.