

Numbers Now.....

Criminal Justice in Oklahoma

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The Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) recently completed the first statewide crime victimization survey. The purpose of the Oklahoma Crime Victimization Survey (OCVS) was to generate statewide crime estimates for Oklahoma. Since surveying an entire population is not practical, researchers developed estimates based on a sample of the population. As a survey's sample size increases, the estimates become more reliable. In saying that, keep in mind that crime estimates calculated from this survey were based on a sample size of 200 adults. Those results were then extrapolated to the state's overall population with a margin for error of +/- 8.3%.

Listed below are highlights from the survey. The full report (including the questionnaire and research methodology) is available online.

- An estimated 500,000 violent and property crimes were committed against Oklahomans;
- 23.8% of Oklahomans were the victims of at least one incident of violent or property crime;
- 61.9% of victimizations were reported to law enforcement;
- Oklahomans over 35 were more likely to be burglarized than those under 35;
- Oklahomans who had lived at their address for 11 years or less were more likely to be victims of vandalism compared to those who had lived at their address for 11 years or more;
- Approximately \$1 billion dollars worth of stolen or damaged property was attributable to property crimes;
- For those crimes with a known suspect, over 75% of victims knew the perpetrator;
- Half of all crimes occurred during summer months;
- 59% of victims were female;
- 77% of known offenders were male;
- Overall, respondents feel safe in their community;
- Respondents are satisfied with the efforts of law enforcement;
- More than half of respondents own a firearm;
- 15% of respondents carry a firearm outside their home for protection;
- The majority of respondents (86.9%) support capital punishment;
- Over one-fourth of respondents think criminal justice funding should be directed at prevention and education;
- 35% of respondents believe drugs and alcohol are most responsible for crime in their community; and
- Over 80% of respondents have taken steps to prevent victimization.

Next year, SAC staff will conduct another victimization survey with a sample size of 1,000; the results will be available in the summer 2012.

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North Carolina SAC Director***

Identity Theft: Deter, Detect, and Defend

Identity theft is a serious crime. Identity theft occurs when someone assumes the identity of a victim to perform fraud or other criminal act. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), criminals use several sources to gain access to a victim's personal information. Some of the more common ways to obtain this confidential information are:

Dumpster Diving. Criminals look through a victim's trash for valuable information.

Skimming. Criminals steal debit/credit card numbers by using a special storage device.

Phishing. They pretend to be a legitimate entity (government agency, financial entity, or company) and send email messages to get victims to reveal personal information.

Hacking. Criminals hack (gain unauthorized access) emails or other online accounts to access a victim's personal information. They also hack company websites to access company databases.

Stealing. Criminals steal wallets/purses, mail, pre-approved credit offers, checks, and tax information. They steal personnel records from employers or bribe employees who have access to the records.

In response to the increased threat, the FTC developed a useful fact sheet for consumers. According to the FTC, managing identity theft requires a three-pronged response: deter, detect, and defend. Additional information is found on their website; the link is provided below.

DETER identity thieves by safeguarding your information.

- ∞ Shred financial documents
- ∞ Protect your social security number
- ∞ Don't give out personal information unless you made the call
- ∞ Never click on links sent in unsolicited emails
- ∞ Don't use obvious passwords

DETECT suspicious activity by routinely monitoring your financial and billing statements. Be alert to the following signs:

- ∞ Bills that do not arrive as expected
- ∞ Unexpected credit cards or account statements
- ∞ Denials of credit for no apparent reason
- ∞ Calls or letters about purchases you did not make
- ∞ Changes in your financial statements that you don't recognize
- ∞ Inspect your credit report yearly

DEFEND against ID theft as soon as you detect it.

- ∞ Place a "Fraud Alert" on your credit reports, and review the reports carefully
- ∞ Contact the security or fraud departments of each company for all unauthorized charges and changes
- ∞ File a police report
- ∞ Report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission

For more information, please visit the FTC's website at <http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft>

Oklahoma Remembers Doug Yearwood, North Carolina SAC Director

The Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) recently learned that Doug Yearwood, longtime director of the North Carolina SAC, died suddenly on Friday, June 10. This was very sad news for the criminal justice community across the nation, as Doug had a profound impact on the way in which justice research and statistics were collected, analyzed, and disseminated.

I met Doug at the 2006 Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) conference, my first year as Oklahoma SAC director. He quickly became a good friend and a valued colleague. Doug served as President of JRSA that year, so he was influential in developing my abilities as a SAC director and member of JRSA. I will always remember and appreciate the call I received from Doug in 2007, during which he encouraged me to seek a position on the JRSA Executive Committee. While I ultimately did not win a seat on the committee, Doug's belief in me was a powerful motivator for my future work.

In *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, John C. Maxwell says, "For leaders to be effective, they need to connect with people" (2007:115). Doug was an effective leader because he did just that – he connected with people. Doug will be missed, but those who were fortunate to know and work with him will always remember his contributions to the field of criminal justice and his legacy of leadership, which started with his willingness to connect with others.

*Christopher M. Hill, Ph.D., Assistant Division Director,
Information Services Division*

Coming Soon: Numbers Now, Volume 2

This is the last issue in this volume of *Numbers Now*. If you haven't read the other issues, here is what you missed:

Issue 1: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Issue 2: National Stalking Awareness Month

Issue 3: National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Back issues of *Numbers Now* are published on the SAC website. Since one of the key features of this newsletter is to spotlight crime-related National Public Service Announcements (PSAs), we will change the quarterly release schedule to accommodate other monthly PSAs. Volume 2 will feature National Teen Dating Violence Month (February), National Missing Children's Day (May), Annual Night Out (August), and National Seniors' Safety Week (November).

Publications

Oklahoma Crime Victimization
Survey Report, 2010

Crime Victimization in Oklahoma,
2010

Perceptions of Crime in
Oklahoma, 2010

Reminder.....

The Office of Criminal Justice Statistics can assist you and your agency with statistics for grant applications or any other research requests. Please visit: [www.ok.gov/osbi/Statistical Analysis Center](http://www.ok.gov/osbi/Statistical_Analysis_Center)

Baker's Dozen

Angie Baker, SAC Director

July 11-16th is Fraud Awareness Week. Becoming a victim of identity theft is a real possibility for most Oklahomans. Below are 13 facts about identity theft. Unless otherwise stated, the following statistics can be found on the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) website.

1. The FTC estimates that as many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year;
2. Identity theft costs Americans \$52.6 billion dollars each year;
3. In 2009, there were 2,633 complaints of identity theft in Oklahoma;
4. Oklahoma ranks 23rd in the nation for identity theft complaints;
5. In 2009, states with the most identity theft complaints were Florida, New York, Texas, and California;
6. The most common form of identity theft in Oklahoma is credit card fraud;
7. According to the US General Accounting Office, victims spend 175 hours, on average, actively trying to resolve their identity theft-related issues;
8. Identity theft cases take, on average, two to four years to resolve;
9. Not counting legal fees, victims reported spending between \$30 and \$2,000 on costs related to their identity theft; the average reported loss was \$808;
10. On average, victims reported that six new accounts were opened in their name;
11. About 15% of victims reported that they had been the subject of a criminal investigation related to the theft of their identity (e.g., bogus checks and bank fraud);
12. Identity theft is rarely a stand-alone crime; In fact, in most cases identity theft is part of a larger criminal enterprise;
13. For more information, please visit <http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft>

Mission

To collect, analyze, and disseminate criminal justice-related research to educate and assist law enforcement and the public in Oklahoma.