

Numbers Now.....

Criminal Justice in Oklahoma

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Oklahoma State-Tribal Liaison Program

The Oklahoma District Attorneys Council, Victims Services Division is now well into the second year of a unique grant that funds a State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison. Brian Hendrix began work as the liaison in October 2011. Funded by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), the program is the only one of its type in the nation. Program efforts are dedicated to improving communication among tribal, state, federal, and local officials to enhance victim assistance and outreach services to tribal communities in Oklahoma. The primary purpose of the project is to enhance victims' compensation and assistance outreach to Oklahoma's 38 federally recognized tribes.

Over the last 18 months, Mr. Hendrix has been in the field contacting victim advocates, court personnel, and law enforcement representatives for each tribe. In addition, he met with victim witness coordinators in each of the twenty-seven district attorneys' offices. Consequently, by the middle of last year he began bringing representatives from tribal victims' service programs and state victims' services personnel together in a series of continuing State-Tribal Victims Services Roundtable Discussions. The idea behind these meetings is to provide an informal forum in which tribal victims' services providers and victim witness coordinators/victim witness assistants can meet, talk about respective services offered, and discuss any gaps in delivery of resources/support to victims.

A partnership between the District Attorneys Council and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation was created for the purpose of evaluating the impact of the project. The field presence of Angie Baker, project evaluator, brings additional benefits to many of the tribal communities in the form of a violent crime data resource. Ms. Baker now routinely distributes violent crime reports specific to tribal service boundaries to those who attend roundtable discussions.

Brian came to the District Attorneys Council with a great deal of experience in working with Oklahoma tribes and federal grants. He previously served as the Executive Director for the Payne County Drug Court Program. During his tenure at the Payne County Drug Court, Hendrix served as a faculty member for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Tribal Training Initiative and the Native American Alliance Foundation. Prior to his work in Payne County, Mr. Hendrix coordinated children's protective services first as a Child Protection Worker and then as the Indian Child Welfare Coordinator for Muscogee Creek Nation.

In this issue:

National Youth Violence Prevention Month

Law Enforcement Program Spotlight: Methamphetamine Waste Container Program

Oklahoma is one of 16 states that have implemented the Methamphetamine Waste Container Program to combat the increasing demand on local law enforcement for meth lab cleanup services. With assistance from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics continues to strategically place containers around the state.

When a meth lab is uncovered, trained law enforcement officers dismantle the lab and transport the waste to an Authorized Central Storage (ACS) location. Waste from multiple labs is then collected from the ACS location by an environmental company that is responsible for the final disposal of waste.

According to Mel Woodrow, Agent-in-Charge, the container program benefits local law enforcement in several ways. In addition to providing a central location for disposal services, the containers also minimize clean-up costs. Prior to the implementation of the container program, local law enforcement spent an average of \$1,800.00 per lab; the container program reduced clean-up costs to an estimated \$133.00 per lab.

Containers are located in Oklahoma City, McAlester, Tulsa, Duncan, Muskogee, Sallisaw, Newkirk, and Vinita. Additional containers will be placed in Lawton, Woodward, Ardmore, and Cushing. Sites are supervised by the resident OBN Agent-In-Charge, and the use of containers is restricted to lab-certified law enforcement officers.

For more information, please contact the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, or visit the agency's website at <http://www.ok.gov/obnodd/>

Oklahoma SAC Director Attends Executive Session on Evidence-Based Practices

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) in cooperation with the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), with support from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, recently hosted an Executive Session on Evidence-Based Practices for State Criminal Justice Agency Administrators (SAAs) and State Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Directors.

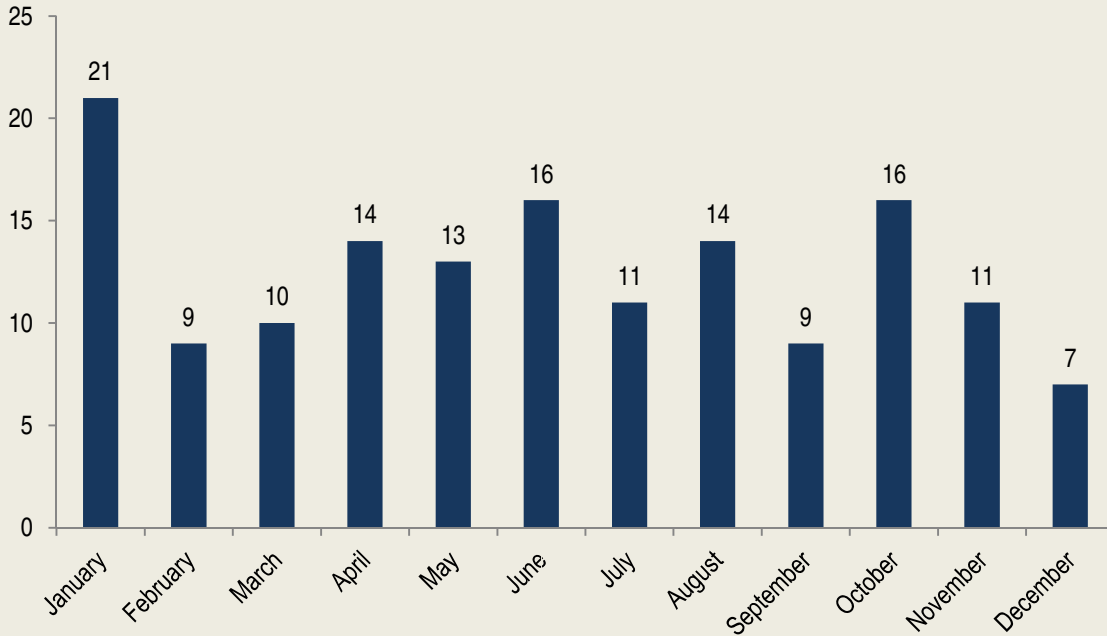
The executive session focused on the use of evidence-based research in making data-driven policy decisions. State officials met with the leadership of the Office of Justice Programs and the Bureau of Justice Statistics to discuss federal priorities and initiatives. Meeting attendees also discussed the impact of diminishing resources and funding, as well as possible solutions to addressing challenges. Finally, organizers provided time for state SAC directors and SAA program staff to discuss opportunities to collaborate and implement evidence-based practices.

The Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center is housed in the Office of Criminal Justice Statistics at the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Staff collect, analyze, and disseminate criminal justice-related data and research.

The District Attorneys Council is designated as the SAA for Oklahoma. Agency officials administer several federally-funded criminal justice grants, including the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Justice Assistance Grant-Local Law Enforcement (JAG-LLE), National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP), Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act Grant (Coverdell), Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant (RSAT), Sexual Assault Services Program Grant (SASP), and the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act Grant (VAWA).

Office of Criminal Justice Statistics: Research Requests, 2012

Research Requests, by Month

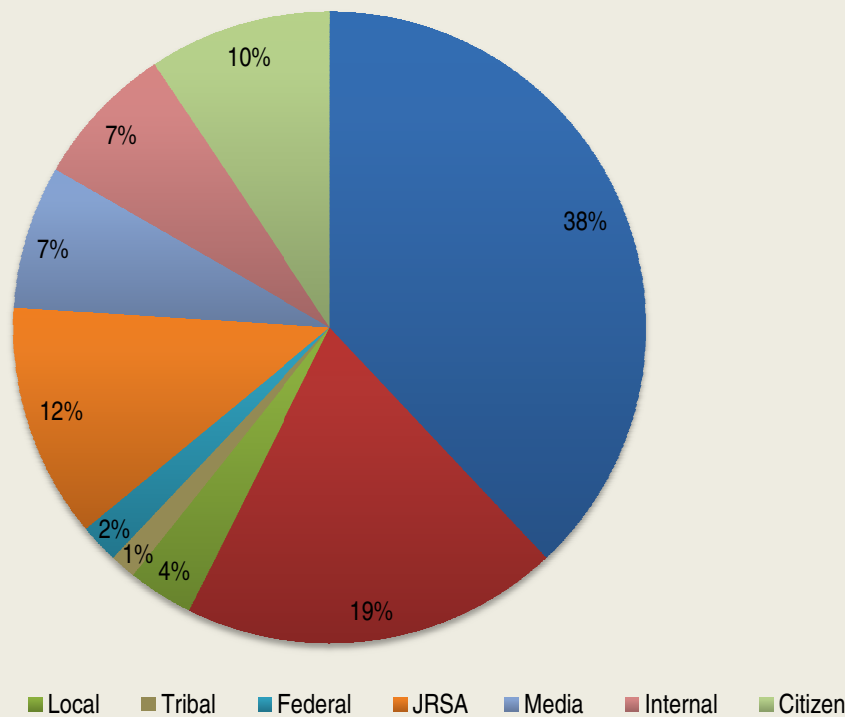


The Office of Criminal Justice Statistics received 151 research requests in 2012, up from 123 in 2011.

Requests vary in the level of complexity, from requests for contact information to requests for complex datasets. Requests also cover a range of criminal justice-related topics.

The majority of requests involve state crime statistics. Requestors use data to complete grant applications, enhance presentations, and enable effective decision making.

Research Requests, by Source



Requests for drug-related data remained steady in 2012; however, Data requests related to synthetic marijuana, bath salts, and methamphetamine labs increased in 2012.

Requests related to child sex crimes and domestic violence continued to climb, including requests pertaining to child sex trafficking offenses.

Research staff has received 42 research requests so far in 2013. In general, requests received this time of year are from researchers and fiscal analysts in neighboring states who are requesting data to assist them in creating fiscal impact statements for proposed legislation.

Baker's Dozen

Angie Baker, SAC Director

National Youth Violence Prevention Week is observed annually in March. The week-long event highlights negative effects of school violence – including bullycide, a term to describe suicide as a result of bullying. According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth 10-24 years of age in the United States. Below are select statistics related to suicide among young people in Oklahoma.

1. From 2004 to 2007, 286 Oklahoma youths committed suicide;
2. Oklahoma's suicide rate (9.3) was 31% higher than the national rate (7.1);
3. Males accounted for 81% of suicides;
4. The suicide rate among Native American youth (14.4) was 66% higher than the rate among whites and 2.8 times higher than the rate among blacks;
5. Native Americans had the highest rates of suicide compared to other races;
6. Fifty percent of youth suicides involved a firearm; 33% of youth suicides were caused by hanging and strangulation;
7. Among males, firearms were the most common method of suicide; for females, hanging/strangulation and firearms was the most common;
8. Depression (41%) was reported as the most common circumstance surrounding the suicide, followed by intimate partner problems (38%), and a crisis in the two weeks prior to the incident (30%);
9. Among males, depression was the leading circumstance leading up to the suicide; in females, intimate partner problem was reported as the leading circumstance leading up to the suicide;
10. Twenty-eight percent of youths who committed suicide left a suicide note;
11. Twenty-six percent of youths disclosed their intent to commit suicide at some point in the past;
12. For every successful youth suicide, 100-200 attempts occur;
13. For more information, please visit:

http://www.ok.gov/health/Disease_Prevention_Preparedness/Injury_Prevention_Service/IPS_Publications/index.html

Information adapted from the OK-VDRS Brief Report: Youth Suicide in Oklahoma. Data for report was gathered by the Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System, which can be accessed at http://www.ok.gov/health/documents/Suicide_Among_Youth.pdf

Mission

To collect, analyze, and disseminate criminal justice research to educate and assist law enforcement and the citizens of Oklahoma.