New Data Tool At Public’s Fingertips

The Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) recently added a new data analysis tool to the SAC link on the OSBI Website. The State Incident-Based Reporting System (SIBRS) Table Tool provides users with online access to aggregated crime data for participating jurisdictions. SAC staff created the tool using data provided by the Field Services Unit. Originally designed to replace summary reporting, SIBRS enables participating agencies to contribute detailed crime data to the records management system, which is then reported directly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Compared to traditional summary reporting, SIBRS data provides a better picture of crime in the state. The user-friendly tool is capable of displaying data in two formats: an embedded table or an Excel spreadsheet. To access the tool, please visit http://www.ok.gov/osbi/Statistical_Analysis_Center/Data_and_Statistics/index.html

DNA Cold Case Unit Solving Cases

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) has received two National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Solving Cold Cases with DNA grants. These grants have allowed the OSBI to identify and review cases, analyze biological evidence, and investigate violent crime cold cases that have the potential to be solved using DNA analysis. Cases being reviewed range from recent cold cases to cases that occurred in the early 1970’s. Case reviews began in November 2009. To date, 428 cases have been reviewed and entered into the OSBI Cold Case Database.

To qualify for analysis and investigation, the case has to contain evidence suitable for DNA analysis.

Currently, 117 cases are pending submittal of
The Oklahoma SAC also 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 (200 total interviews). Next year SAC staff plans to conduct another survey with a sample of 1,000 adults. The full report, including questionnaire and research methodology, is available online.

The Oklahoma SAC is housed in the Office of Criminal Justice Statistics at the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Unit projects are partially funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Staff is also working on projects related to domestic violence and arrest-related deaths.

... continued DNA Cold Case Unit

Evidence or pending DNA analysis. Seventy-eight cases have had DNA analysis completed and are being followed up by OSBI agents or local law enforcement. DNA profiles from 53 cases have been entered into CODIS, which has resulted in 12 CODIS hits.

Grant funding has allowed extensive analysis to be performed on more pieces of evidence than generally accepted under routine laboratory policy. Funds have also been used to allow OSBI agents and local law enforcement detectives to travel to collect known DNA samples and interview suspects.

In early 2010, an exhumation was performed in hopes of using DNA from an unidentified female to identify her and her killer. Using new techniques, her DNA profile was obtained and entered into CODIS. The OSBI continues to work to identify her and her killer. In the metro area, two serial rapists were identified using DNA analysis and are currently being investigated by local authorities. Recently in southeast Oklahoma, an exhumation was performed to collect the victim’s DNA in a 27-year-old homicide to aid the investigation and prosecution of the suspect.

In August 2010, the Cold Case grant underwent an NIJ Progress Assessment. The Assessors found the OSBI Cold Case Unit to be in compliance with all areas, including Budget Expenditures, Administration Oversight, and Overall Project Progress. There were no Issues for Resolution or Action Items reported.

The OSBI Cold Case Unit continues to focus efforts on working unsolved cold cases in hopes of bringing closure to the victims and their families.
Scholarship Awarded to OSBI Temp Employee

Congratulations to University of Central Oklahoma student Jerod Miles, who received the Friends of Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation/Dustin Rhodes Memorial Scholarship for the fall 2011 semester.

Jerod is an interpersonal communication major with a minor in leadership at UCO. He has worked for the OSBI as a student temp since June 2009. He is involved in many activities at school, including Acacia Fraternity, New Student Orientation and UCO’s President’s Leadership Council.

The Dustin Rhodes Memorial Scholarship was founded in 2004, when an OSBI employee lost her 9-year-old son in a tragic accident. The scholarship in the amount of $1,000 is awarded each fall and spring semester to a child or grandchild of a full-time employee of a law enforcement agency in Oklahoma.

OSBI Hires New C & A Supervisor

Vernon Glover, a nine year OSBI employee, has been promoted to Contracting and Acquisitions Administrator for the agency. He graduated from Mid-America Christian University and is a Certified Procurement Officer with the State of Oklahoma. He is a two-time Oklahoma Buyer of the Year and National Institute of Governmental Purchasing Buyer of the Year nominee. Vernon is married to his high school sweetheart and they have two children, Steven and Kevin. He attends St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church where he teaches Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and other special classes as needed.

Information Sharing Tools Available to Public & Media

The OSBI is a subscriber to an alert system that allows the public to get first hand information about OSBI cases and arrests. Nixle alerts can be sent to either your phone by text or via e-mail to your computer—or both. Many members of the Oklahoma media have logged on with this service. OSBI hopes the public will also take advantage. To take part, just sign up by going to www.nixle.com. Several other governmental agencies throughout the state use Nixle. Any message sent out via Nixle is also sent through the OSBI Twitter account, @OSBIPIO. That same information with any photographs is posted on the OSBI Facebook page.
By Christy Dill

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation recently received a grant that has allowed it to construct the Oklahoma Mobile Analysis Center (MAC), which will aid the agency in serious criminal acts.

The MAC is a self-contained vehicle equipped with secure computer hardware/software and communication-networking systems as well as analytical work areas that allow criminal analysts to receive, analyze, and disseminate raw intelligence data.

This vehicle allows the OSBI to establish a work-site at, or within close proximity of, the location of an incident, providing increased effectiveness and timeliness in coordinating investigative leads.

Volumes of information are transferred when you have a disaster or serious criminal act, stated OSBI Assistant Director Clif Gann. “With the MAC, we can get results quicker for those families involved and to our agents.”

A conference area in the MAC allows team members from multiple agencies to meet and coordinate efforts to further investigations; this area is also available for interviewing witnesses and suspects.

Information generated by the unit is turned into actionable knowledge that supports the ability to detect, investigate, prevent, and respond to criminal and terrorist activity. “It’s so important to solve cases in the early stages,” Gann said. “The MAC helps us cover leads faster; as leads come in they can go out quicker.”

The MAC is an extension of Oklahoma’s Fusion Center and data sharing initiatives that operate contemporaneously to the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan (NCISP).