

Numbers Now.....

Criminal Justice in Oklahoma

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SAC Publication Wins National Award

The Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), which is housed in the Information Services Division, was recently awarded the JRSA's Phillip Hoke Award for Excellence in Analysis. The Hoke Award is a national award that recognizes outstanding efforts for the creation of useful and high quality reports. The Oklahoma SAC won the award for their work on the report Evaluation of the Oklahoma City Gang and Violent Program, a program evaluation conducted for the Oklahoma City Police Department. Staff was recognized for their work during the Annual BIS/JRSA Conference in Portland, Maine.

Institutional Review Board Created at the OSBI

OSBI Staff recently created an internal Institutional Review Board, which is an independent oversight committee that reviews the SAC's research to ensure the protection of human subjects.

The Board was created to review the first state-wide crime victimization survey. Due to the nature of the survey questions, the research and protocol need approval from an IRB before data collection can begin in February. SAC Staff will be calling Oklahoma citizens and asking them about their victimization experiences, perceptions of crime, and perceptions of gun control.

The purpose of the victimization survey is to gain a better understanding of unreported crime incidents in Oklahoma. Historically, crime victimization surveys have provided valuable insight into crimes not captured by the Uniform Crime Report published annually by the FBI.

In this issue:

Interview with Marcia Smith about Stalking in Oklahoma

In 2009, Oklahoma had Nine Arrest-Related Deaths

Oklahoma had nine arrest-related deaths in 2009. Arrest-related deaths are those deaths that occur at any point from initial contact with law enforcement to the time an individual is booked into a correctional facility. Suicides and deaths due to police pursuits are included.

All nine of the decedents were male. The average age was 34; the oldest was 56, and the youngest was 22. Five of the individuals were White, two were Black, and two were American Indian. Four deaths occurred in Oklahoma County, four in Tulsa County, and one in Stephens County. Seven of the deaths occurred in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Oklahoma's two largest cities.

The Medical Examiner's Office determined the cause of death in seven of the nine cases to be homicide by law enforcement. Additionally, one person died from injuries sustained in a car accident during a police pursuit, and one decedent had injected large amounts of drugs just prior to contact with the police. Over 50% of the arrest subjects attempted to flee or escape from custody. 56% of deaths occurred at the arrest/crime scene, while 44% of the deaths occurred at a medical facility.

Pending charges for the decedents included burglary, domestic violence, illegal drug possession, and weapon possession. In two of the cases, officers were responding to mental health calls that quickly escalated.

As of December 31, 2010, there have been 21 arrest-related deaths. A summary report will be published in the spring of 2011.

SIBRS Update

Currently, there are 190 agencies participating in the State Incident-Based Reporting System (SIBRS). Of the 190 agencies participating, 187 are providing SIBRS data to the state repository through a direct data entry process. At this time, three agencies (Tulsa County Sheriff's Office, Yukon Police Department, and the McAlester Police Department) are certified to upload data from their records management systems via an XML (extensible markup language) interface to the SIBRS database. The McAlester Police Department interface is especially significant because they utilize the Offender Data Information System (ODIS). As of September 2009, ODIS is maintained by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI). Approximately 120 law enforcement agencies across Oklahoma utilize ODIS as their records management system. The OSBI has formed an aggressive campaign to interface all ODIS agencies with SIBRS. OSBI staff will be going to the Altus PD next, a step that will ensure that the interface process and testing continues based on standards set forth by the SIBRS program. Once the Altus Police Department interface is complete, staff will target all ODIS agencies that currently perform data entry functions in both ODIS and SIBRS. Once this segment of the project is complete, we will focus on ODIS agencies that serve larger areas of population in the state.

We anticipate it will take two years to complete all ODIS interface projects. Once complete, there will be approximately 300 agencies providing data to the SIBRS repository. This data will be accessible for tactical data sharing and statistics. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your OSBI Field Representative or Rodney Eaton at (405) 879-2533 or Rodney.Eaton@osbi.ok.gov.

Published Bulletins

Self Defense Act Application
Trends in Oklahoma, 2005-2009

State Incident-Based Reporting
System Participation in Oklahoma

Homicide Trends in Oklahoma,
2000-2009

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)

Stalking in Oklahoma: An Interview with Marcia Smith

January is National Stalking Awareness Month. Marcia Smith is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Recently, she responded to questions about stalking in Oklahoma.

Stalking is defined as “a course of conduct directed at a specific person that involves repeated visual or physical proximity; nonconsensual communication; or verbal, written, or implied threats; or a combination thereof that would cause a reasonable person to fear.” It is unknown how prevalent stalking is in Oklahoma for two reasons. First, stalking is an underreported crime; second, separate statistics on stalking are not collected at the state level.

Stalkers are classified into three main groups: Simple Obsession, Love Obsession, and Other, according to Smith.

Simple Obsession stalkers have previously been involved in an intimate relationship with their victims. Often the victim has attempted to call off the relationship, but the stalker refuses to accept it. These stalkers suffer from personality disorders, including emotional immaturity, jealousy, insecurity, and low self-esteem. While reconciliation is the goal of the stalking, this type of stalker believes they must have a specific person back or they will not survive. This type of stalker usually feels powerless, and the stalking behavior restores some of the power lost. Stalking does not always begin with violence; instead, it usually starts with “Can I just talk to you or meet with you one last time”? This form of stalking can quickly escalate to violence, homicide, and suicide.

Love Obsession stalkers are individuals who become obsessed with or fixed on a person with whom they have had no intimate or close relationship. The victim may be a friend, a person they only met once, or even a complete stranger. This type of stalker believes that a special – often mystical – relationship exists between them and their victims. During questioning, police find that most love obsession stalkers have fantasized a complete relationship with the person they are stalking.

Fast Fact

Nationally, it is reported that 76% of femicide victims and 85% of attempted femicide victims were stalked by their intimate partner in the year prior to the murder.

Other stalkers harass their victims out of hate, not love. This form of stalking becomes a method of revenge for a perceived misdeed against the stalker, or as a means of protest. While this is the smallest group of stalkers, it is especially dangerous; there have been several killings by this type of stalker (e.g., abortion clinics).

Stalking behaviors include:

- Making unwanted phone calls (62%);
- Sending unsolicited/unwanted e-mails or letters (30%);
- Posting information online about the victim or spreading rumors (29%);
- Following or spying on the victim (25%);
- Showing up at places without a legitimate reason (22%);
- Waiting at places for the victim (25%);
- Leaving unwanted items, gifts, flowers (9%).

In Oklahoma, the punishment for stalking is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for up to one (1) year or/and a fine of not more than \$1,000.00. Subsequent convictions (within a certain timeframe) can result in a felony conviction. Victims can get an Order of Protection by visiting their local Court Clerk.

Related to new developments, Smith said, “We are learning a lot about the dangers of cyberstalking. We need to include cyberstalking in every conversation we have about stalking.” When asked if she had a message for the law enforcement community, Smith said, “Stalking is a predicate crime, and should be taken very seriously by law enforcement, advocacy agencies, and victims. Tactics used by stalkers vary enormously, and safety planning is crucial for victim safety and survival.”

For more information, please visit www.ocadvsa.org.

Baker's Dozen

Angie Baker, SAC Director

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, sponsored by the National Center for Victims of Crime. Here are 13 facts about stalking according to the National Center for Victims of Crime.

1. According to Oklahoma State Law, stalking is defined as “any person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses another person in a manner that would cause a reasonable person or a member of the immediate family of that person to feel frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested; and actually causes the person being followed or harassed to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested”;
2. Stalking is a misdemeanor in Oklahoma, punishable by no more than one year in the county jail and/or fine of \$1000.00;
3. Each year, over 3.4 million people are stalked in the United States;
4. 75% of stalking victims know their stalker;
5. Victims aged 18-24 experience the highest rate of stalking;
6. 30% of stalking victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner;
7. 25% of victims report cyberstalking, which includes checking e-mail and internet usage;
8. 1 in 7 victims has to move because of the stalking;
9. In 20% of cases, stalkers use weapons to harm or threaten the victim;
10. Almost 1/3 of stalkers have stalked someone else;
11. Stalking is often related to domestic violence and can occur when the victim attempts to leave;
12. Only about half of all incidents are reported to the police;
13. For more information, please visit www.ocadvsda.org or www.ncvc.org.

Information from the National Center for Victims of Crime (www.ncvc.org)

Mission

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