

Numbers Now....

Criminal Justice in Oklahoma

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OCJS Welcomes New Researcher

The Office of Criminal Justice welcomes Meredith Mouser to the research staff. Meredith joined the unit in November. She earned her bachelor's degree in Criminology and her master's degree in Sociology, both from the University of Oklahoma. Meredith is working toward the completion of her doctoral dissertation.

Meredith worked as a graduate research assistant for the University of Oklahoma Center for Spatial Analysis and as a graduate teaching assistance for the Department of Sociology at the University of Oklahoma.

Welcome to the team, Meredith!

SAFE Oklahoma Grant Application for LE Open

The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office is accepting applications for the SAFE Oklahoma Grant Program. The goal of the grant program is to provide funds to local law enforcement to combat violent crimes. All local law enforcement agencies are eligible for funding. The application deadline is March 6, 2015.

If your agency plans to apply for funds, the Office of Criminal Justice Statistics can provide crime statistics and technical assistance for the application. For additional information about the grant program, please visit www.ok.gov/oag.

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National Teen Dating Violence Month

Wings of Hope Family Crisis Services

Meredith Mouser

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), teen dating violence includes “physical, emotional, sexual, and/or psychological abuse.” Oklahoma teens are not immune to experiencing teen dating violence. The 2013 Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) indicated 8.4 percent of high school students have experienced physical dating violence, while 9.5 percent of high school students have experienced sexual dating violence. Furthermore, the CDC suggests those who experience dating violence are at risk of adverse health outcomes, including depression and anxiety, drug and alcohol abuse, antisocial behaviors, or suicide.

Prevention and education are critical in the effort to eliminate teen dating violence. Located in Stillwater, Wings of Hope Family Crisis Services is an organization that offers presentations aimed at educating high school and college students about healthy relationships and preventing dating violence. The curricula offered by Wings of Hope include Green Dot-Bystander Intervention Strategies and Love is Respect “Start Talking.” The Green Dot-Bystander Intervention Strategies is geared toward college students and teaches students how active bystanders can reduce sexual violence. Geared toward middle and high school students, “Start Talking” gets teenagers involved in a dialogue about safe and healthy relationships.

If you would like more information regarding the prevention and education curricula incorporated by Wings of Hope, they can be contacted at 405-372-9922.

PEPTALKOK

John Flores-Hidones

PEPTALKOK is a public awareness campaign developed by the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (OCADVSA). The goal of the campaign, modeled after the Rape Prevention and Education (PRE) Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is to prevent and reduce sexual assault among youth across Oklahoma. The mission of the program is to “reduce first-time perpetration of sexual violence, increase the number of non-violent relationships and interactions, and reduce cultural influences supporting sexual violence.”

In 2013, Oklahoma law enforcement reported 1,762 rapes to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, representing a 5.2% increase over 2012. Ten percent of violent crimes reported in 2013 were forcible rapes; of those, 31.5% were reported as cleared by law enforcement (either by arrest or exceptional means).

PEPTALKOK is funded by the Oklahoma Sexual Violence Prevention Program of the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Other partners include the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General and the Oklahoma Prevention Leadership Committee.

For more information on the PEPTALKOK webinars and other available resources, please visit <http://peptalkok.com/>.

Start by Believing Campaign Launched in Oklahoma

Nikki Lofftus

The *Start by Believing* Campaign was developed by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) in 2011. The goal of the campaign is to increase public awareness on how to respond to victims of sexual assault and rape. Communities across the nation have launched *Start by Believing* Campaigns.

The Kansas City Police Department launched its campaign by working with media, community stakeholders, and private businesses to spread the message. Lamar Advertising provided free billboards for the campaign, and law enforcement placed posters around the city. The Kansas City Metropolitan Area reported an increase in the number of reported sexual assaults.

The Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association, along with the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, the District Attorney's Council, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health and other state and local agencies, has joined forces to implement the *Start by Believing* Campaign in Oklahoma. The goal is for Oklahoma to become a *Start by Believing* state by April, 2015.

For more information about the campaign (including posters, brochures, slideshows, and other resources), please visit <http://startbybelieving.org>.

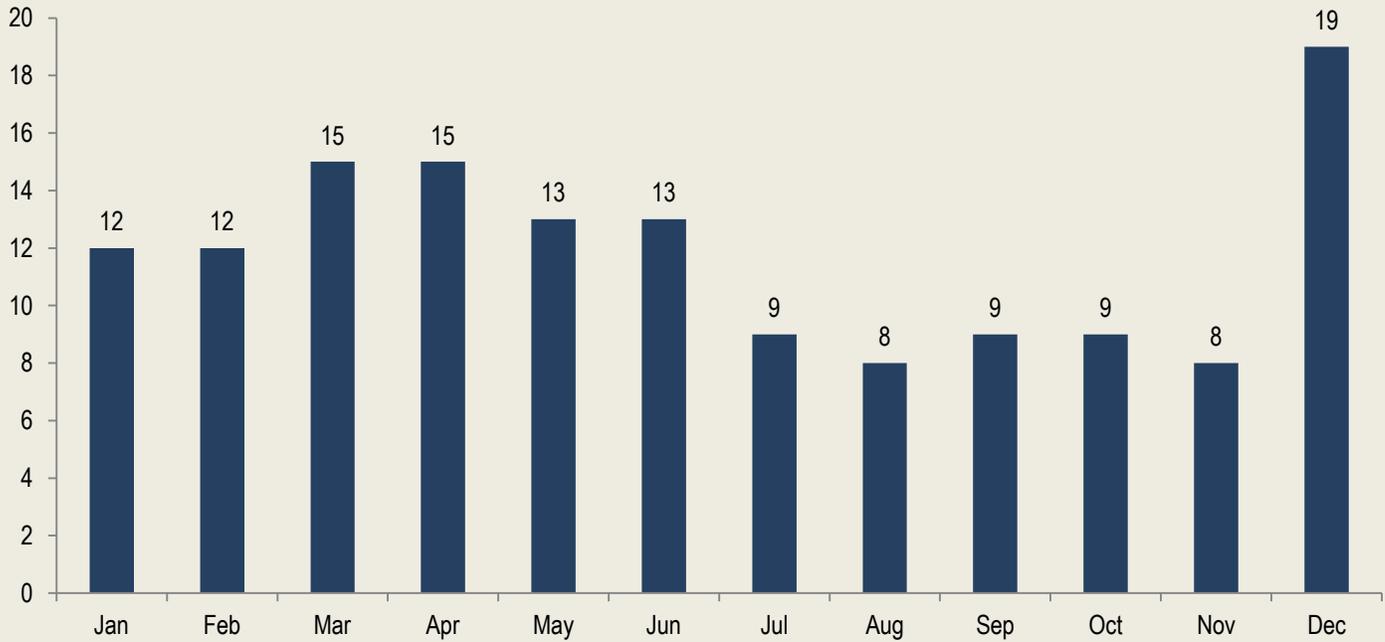


Mission

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

Office of Criminal Justice Statistics: Research Requests, 2014

Research Requests, by Month



Research Requests, by Requestor

