



Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

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Arming Employers with Complete Record Checks, OSBI Exceeds Goal

by Anne Simons/Data Collection & Reporting Sections Manager

A criminal history record without a final disposition is like a book without the final chapter. What happened? What was the outcome? A disposition is the final outcome of a charge filed in court. Sometimes the charges are dismissed or never filed. Without that final chapter, an employer does not have the information required to make an informed hiring decision. Some employers may not be willing or able to do the research required to find out what happened and, as a result, will simply dismiss an applicant. Police officers making on-the-job decisions and district attorneys making charging decisions need that final chapter. The approval of a gun carry license may be delayed as well due to licensing staff having to re-search the final outcome of a charge before approving a qualified applicant.

Whereas it is the responsibility of the court clerk of the county where the charges were filed to send final dispositions to the OSBI for records updating purposes, OSBI takes the responsibility of providing complete records very seriously. In 1925, the Bureau was formed and tasked with keeping all criminal arrest records. Some court clerk offices diligently send records to OSBI. Others, lack any motivation. Increasing the number of criminal history records with final dispositions is the main mission of the Crime Data Collection and Analysis Unit (CDC&AU). Knowing the importance of having complete records, the employees of the unit work diligently to find and add dispositions. In October 2014, the OSBI received a grant to initiate a new program aimed at finding dispositions and adding them to previously incomplete criminal history records.

The grant personnel consist of six full-time employees and one part-time employee. Eight to ten non-grant employees also work on the project over and above their regular jobs. These employees are focused, well-trained, and highly motivated to meet and exceed the established goals.

As of July 1, 2015, more than 65,000 criminal history records with missing dispositions have been processed. This exceeds the goal of 50,000 set for the project. The team now has its sights set on doubling that goal.

This project is funded through a National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) grant, administered through the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council, whose goal is to improve the nation's safety and security by enhancing the quality, completeness, and accessibility of criminal history record information.

Statistics Help Identify Crime Trends, OSBI Provides Valuable Asset *by Angie Baker, Research Director*

The Office of Criminal Justice Statistics (OCJS) is the research and statistics unit for the OSBI. Housed under the Administration umbrella, OCJS provides research assistance to the criminal justice community in Oklahoma by identifying criminal justice needs, evaluating the effectiveness of programs, and answering research requests from around the state. The Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) is also located in OCJS. Additionally, research staff provides administrative support to agency leadership. The unit includes a research director and four statistical research specialists.

Originally created in 1989, the SAC receives federal funding from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to assist the criminal justice community in Oklahoma by providing research and technical assistance to local, state, and tribal officials. Among other duties, the Oklahoma SAC is charged with providing technical assistance and consultation, obtaining information from criminal justice agencies in the state for analysis of criminal justice issues, and facilitating information and networking among criminal justice agencies (22 O.S. § 1517).

Over the years, the SAC has been housed in multiple state agencies, including the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center. SAC duties were transferred to the OSBI in August 2009. This move led to a shift in focus from felony sentencing practices, fiscal impact statements for proposed legislation, and prison projections to research focused on policing strategies, crime across the state, and crime victimization. This change in research priorities was facilitated by the abundance of data available at OSBI, including criminal history records and crime report data.

The Oklahoma SAC is one of 13 states that conducts a statewide crime victimization survey. This survey is important to both policy makers and the public because researchers ask citizens about those crimes that go unreported to law enforcement. OCJS is responsible for the *Crime in Oklahoma* report. Additionally, researchers conduct program evaluations and answer research requests throughout the year. On average, the unit receives 150 research requests annually from lawmakers, law enforcement, other state and federal agencies, universities, media, victim service providers, and the public.

Currently, OCJS is working on two program evaluations: the Oklahoma City Police Department SAFE Program and the Rural Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program. This year, researchers are also studying officer-involved shootings. OCJS collaborates with local, state, and federal agencies and provides ongoing research support to the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council.

Researchers also provide administrative support to OSBI leadership. OCJS assists with strategic planning, performance measures, workflow studies, public safety and appropriation studies, fiscal impact statements, and grant applications. Additionally, OCJS assists other divisions with survey design, data collection, and systems analysis.

The unit's research has been nationally recognized several times. In 2010, the Oklahoma SAC received the *Phillip Hoke National Publication Award* for the evaluation of the Oklahoma City Gang and Violent Crime Program. In 2014, the SAC website was selected as a finalist for the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) National Website Award. The Oklahoma SAC was one of six SACs featured on the National Justice Research and Statistics Association Website in 2014.



*Research Dir. Angie Baker discusses
study results with analyst
Meredith Mouser*

Digital Fingerprinting Arrives in Panhandle

by Debbie McKinney/Criminal Identification Section Manager

Fingerprinting criminal suspects has been a staple of law enforcement in the United States since the early 1900s. Over the decades, authorities used cataloging prints to identify individuals. This often took days, weeks, even months, if it could be done at all. As the 20th century came to a close, fingerprinting people and storing those prints into an easily retrievable database was revolutionized through digitization. OSBI has worked diligently to get the newest technology for that purpose to the law enforcement community.

In 1999, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) received a federal grant to place electronic fingerprint capture devices, known as Livescan, inside six law enforcement agencies that submitted high numbers of arrest fingerprint cards to the OSBI. These devices allow a positive identification of a person within minutes, especially helpful when a person gives a false name at arrest.

In 2014, OSBI replaced those devices. Five of the original devices were still functioning well and were offered to sheriff's offices that did not have a Livescan. July 2015, two of the devices were installed at the sheriff's offices in Harper and Cimarron counties.

Immediately after installation, a trainer with the OSBI Biometric Field Services Unit instructed sheriff's office staff in the operation of the device. These devices will submit fingerprints, palm prints, and mug photos of individuals arrested in these two counties, as well as provide electronic results of positive identification of individuals within minutes. With the quick positive identification of criminals, law enforcement can make informed decisions concerning the arrested individuals.

Additionally, the sheriff's office can use the Livescan to fingerprint applicants who require fingerprinting for purposes of licensing, nursing licenses, real estate licenses, etc. These fingerprints will be printed for the applicant and may not be submitted electronically.



Biometric Field Services Unit teaches how to use Livescan

Victims' Support Funding Continues

by Christy Penney/Victim Services Coordinator

July marks the beginning of the fiscal year for subgrantees of the 2015 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance Grants, among which is our OSBI Victims' Support Program.

The VOCA Assistance Grant is a federally funded grant opportunity made possible through financing of the Crime Victims Fund, which collects fines and penalties from federally convicted criminals. Each U.S. state and territory receives assistance funds to administer and distribute locally among those public and private organizations that provide direct services, assistance, and compensation to crime victims.

In Oklahoma, the local administration is handled by a nine-member Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Board. The Board received applications for the 2015 VOCA Assistance Grant in March, and then met together to formally review and approve those applications at the beginning of the summer. It was before this Board that OSBI Director Stan Florence, Criminalistics Division Director Andrea Swiech, and Victim Services Coordinator Christy Penney appeared in mid-June.

Renewal of the VOCA Assistance Grant is exciting, as it enables the OSBI Victims' Support Program (VSP) to continue to build up the services it offers to crime victims within the great state of Oklahoma. Another year of grant funding means that the VSP can also expand its services to further education efforts to OSBI staff and local communities. It is the hope of the VSP that these efforts will result in Oklahoma citizens who are more knowledgeable about crime victim issues, thus seeking to become involved in victim assistance and advocacy.

OSBI to Host Forensic Science Academy for Criminal Justice Community

By Andrea Swiech/OSBI Lab Director

The importance of forensic science in the courtroom has never been greater than it is today. As forensic science technologies evolve, their use in the courtroom continues to evolve as well. To assist the criminal justice community in staying current with advances in the laboratory, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation is initiating The Forensic Science Academy, the first of its kind program in Oklahoma.

The purpose of the academy is to increase criminal justice practitioners' understanding of forensic principles, scientific techniques and evidentiary matters. The academy will accomplish this by providing classroom and practical training in several of the main disciplines within forensic science. All sessions will be taught by forensic scientists with years of experience in the laboratory and in the courtroom as expert witnesses.

OSBI Hosts Media Academy

By Jessica Brown/OSBI Public Information Director

OSBI hosted a two night media academy for local press personnel. August 18, media from radio, television, print, and on-line spent three hours at OSBI headquarters learning about the laws governing the Bureau, crime scene investigations, and Internet crimes against children. Special Agent Mike Dean spent a majority of the night highlighting cases he has worked on and the twists and turns he dealt with while investigating. Dean also showed media some of the evidence collection techniques crime scene investigators regularly use in the field. Special Agent Jordan Solorzano addressed investigations in the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit. She drove home the problem with the epidemic of child predators using the Internet to share child pornography. August 27, media spent the evening at the OSBI Forensic Science Center to learn more about how criminalists help solve crimes by testing evidence collected at crime scenes.

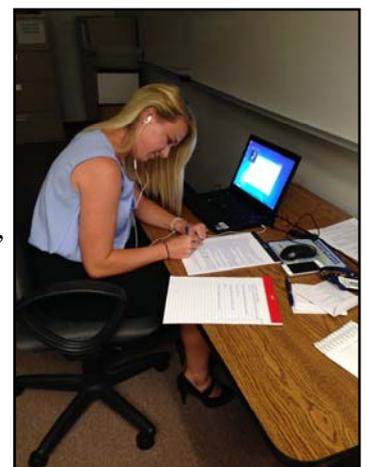


Special Agent Dean gives Durocast to Edmond Sun Reporter James Colbert to show how the product is used to lift tool mark impressions

New Position Focuses on Cold Cases

by Jessica Brown/OSBI Public Information Officer

OSBI Investigative Division has added a new pilot program focused on organizing information in cold cases. Oklahoma City University and OSBI has teamed up to offer the three hour credit for criminal justice majors. Allison Glazner, a masters student at OCU, will spend the next several months reviewing cold case homicides. A cold case is one that an agent has exhausted all leads. Allison is reviewing reports, making notes of recorded witness interviews, and studying crime scene photographs to organize the materials and possibly develop new leads in the case. "I hope to get experience working in this program and find which area of criminal justice I want to focus on. I feel like this is an awesome opportunity to get to start with," Allison says. When the semester has concluded, OSBI will assess this pilot program and determine if it should continue and, perhaps, expand.



Allison Glazner listens to audio taped interviews and takes notes

