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Police Crime in Rural Areas Across the United States

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Police Crime in Rural Areas Across the United States

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Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Las Vegas, NV

March 18, 2021

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Background

- The federal government does not collect, analyze, nor disseminate data concerning crimes perpetrated by the police.
 - **George Floyd Justice in Policing Act** – “This bill addresses a wide range of policies and issues regarding policing practices and law enforcement accountability. It increases accountability for law enforcement misconduct, restricts the use of certain policing practices, **enhances transparency and data collection**, and establishes best practices and training requirements” (H.R. 7120).
 - The legislation stalled in the Senate – No immediate plans of data collection by federal government
- Previous research is heavily reliant on special commissions, observational data, and is often limited to one jurisdiction or city.
- The public’s understanding is conditional on investigative journalism and sensationalized cases. The true breadth and depth of police crime may be misunderstood.
- Other independent entities such as Mapping Police Violence, Fatal Encounters, and the Washington Post collect and disseminate data about police encounters but these measures do not necessarily capture police *crime*.

Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database

Purpose

The purpose of the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database is to **improve policing** and **inform the public** about crimes committed by nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers across the United States.

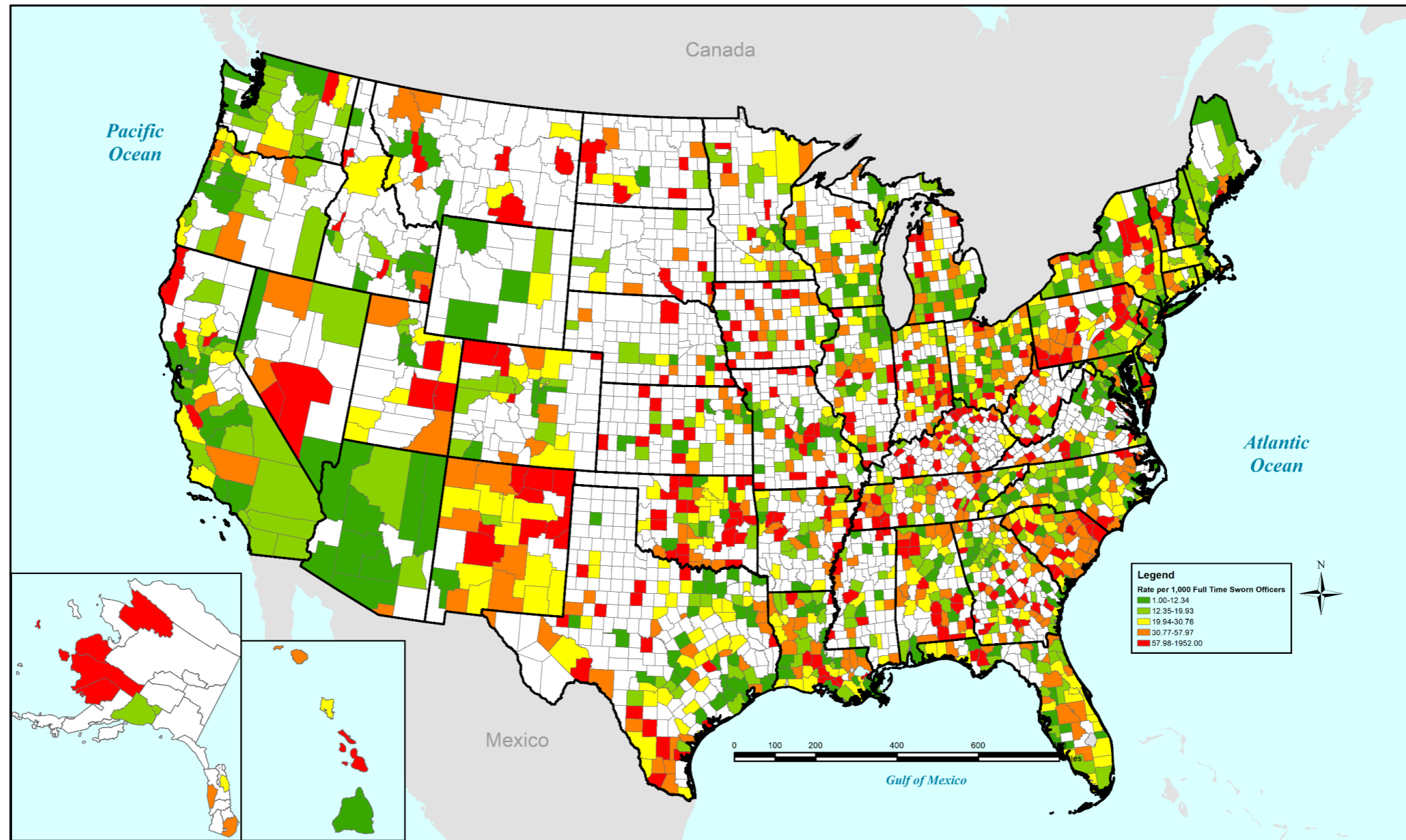
About Us

The Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database is a research project of **Philip Stinson** and the **Police Integrity Research Group at Bowling Green State University**. The database provides summary information that is not otherwise aggregated or publicly available for approximately 13,000 criminal arrest cases of nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers (e.g., police officers, state troopers, deputy sheriffs) from the years 2005-2016.



policecrime.bgsu.edu

Rates of Police Crime Cases per 100,000 Population (N = 13, 214)



The Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database currently includes summary information on **13,214 criminal arrest cases** from the years **2005-2016** involving **10,901 individual nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers**, each of whom were charged with one or more crimes. The arrested officers were employed by **4,104 state, local, and special law enforcement agencies** located in **1,648 counties** and independent cities in **all 50 states** and the District of Columbia.

The Search by Location feature allows users to search the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database using the interactive heat map below. This feature includes summary information on 13,214 criminal arrest cases from the years 2005-2016 involving 10,901 individual nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers. Each arrest case was coded for the most serious offense charged (pursuant to the UCR hierarchy of crime seriousness) as well as for every criminal offense charged against the arrested officer. The heat map provides users with the ability to search various crimes based on crime type, crimes charged, criminal case disposition, final adverse employment outcome, and year of arrest by location.

Location and Year of Arrest ▾

State*
Ohio ▾

County
Wood County ▾

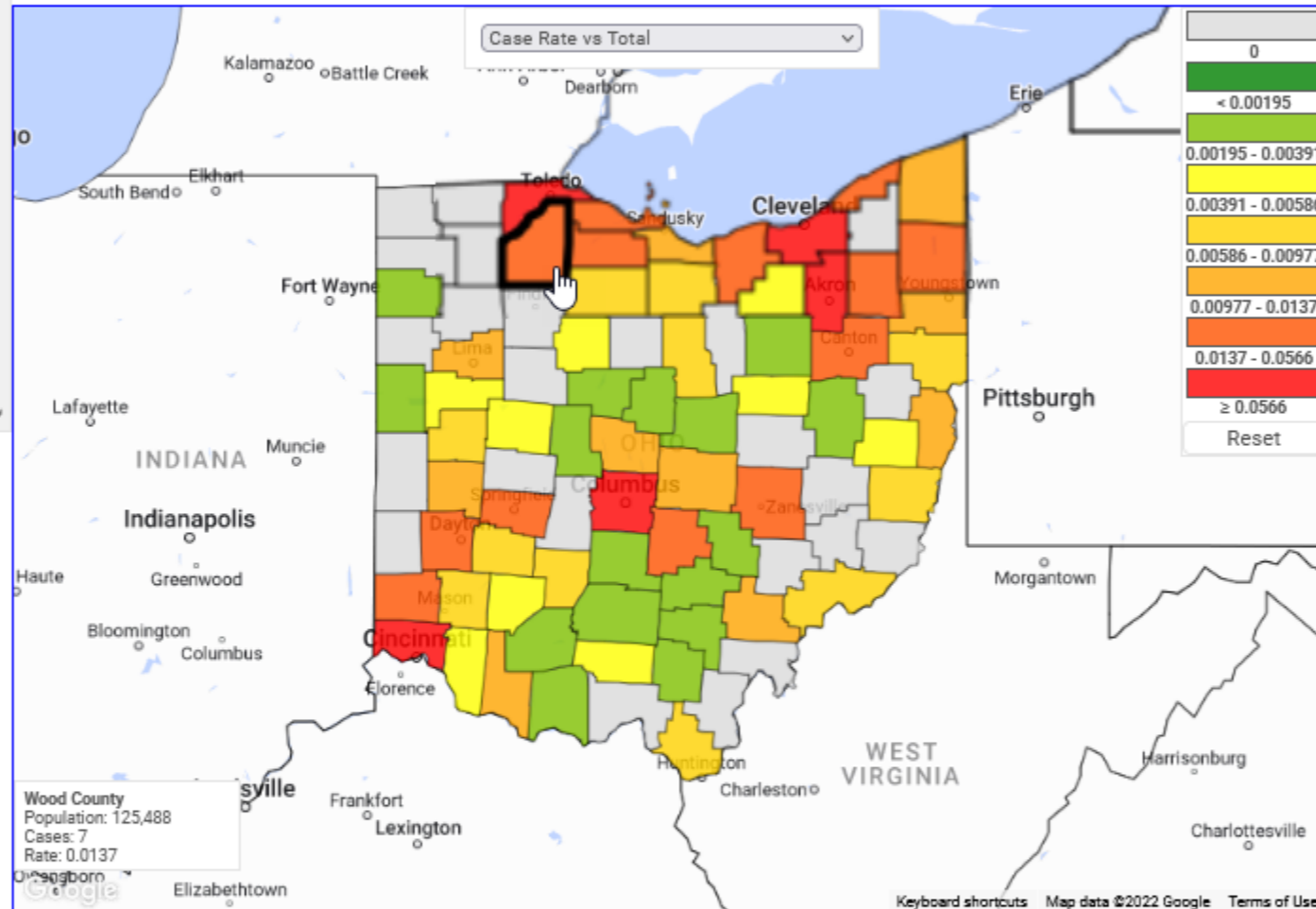
Year of Arrest
▾

Crime Type ▸

Crimes Charged ▸

Outcome ▸

Reset search



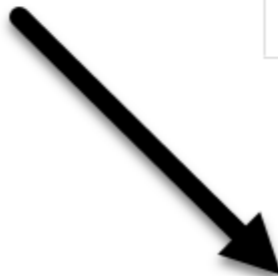
- Alcohol-Related
- Sex-Related
- Violence-Related
- Profit-Motivated
- Drug-Related
- Other
- Wood County
- Ohio

Details

Show
10 ▾
entries

Search:

ID	Date	County	Agency	Drug Related	Alcohol-Related	Sex-Related	Violence-Related	Profit-Motivated	Other
00489N01922	04/15/2005	Wood County	Perrysburg Police Department				✓		



Arrested Officer Information:

Arrested Officer:	00489N01922
Age:	24
Years of Service:	0
Sex:	M
Arrested Officer Ethnicity:	Unknown
Arrested Officer Race:	Unknown
Rank:	Officer/Deputy/Trooper

Arrested Officer's Employer:

Employing Agency:	Perrysburg Police Department
Agency ID:	12424120
City:	Perrysburg
County:	Wood County
State:	OH
Type of Agency:	Municipal Police Department

Case Information:

Date of Arrest:	4/15/2005
Most Serious Offense Charged:	Weapons law violation
Type of Crime:	Violence-Related
Officer's Duty Status During Crime:	Off Duty
Officer's Capacity During Crime:	This crime was committed by officer in their individual capacity
Arresting Agency:	Arresting agency is not officer's employer

Case Status:

Adverse Employment Outcome:	Officer was suspended for a period of time Officer's employment was terminated
Criminal Case Disposition:	Unknown
Pre Trial Release:	Unknown



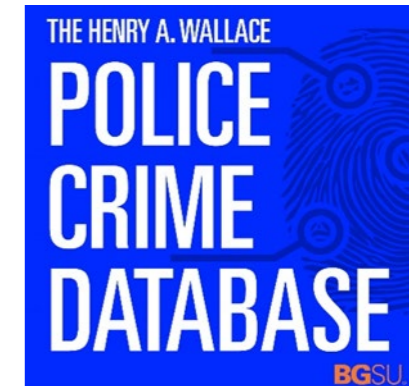
Database v.012122.0842

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Support for the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database was provided by the Wallace Action Fund of Tides Foundation on the recommendation of Randall Wallace.

Methods

- Publically available data can be found on the **Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database** (<https://policecrime.bgsu.edu>)
- The **Police Integrity Research Group** at Bowling Green State University is the only known research group with collects and disseminates data about police crime which occurs throughout the United States.



The Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database

Police Integrity Research for the Public Good

The Police Crime Database includes summary information on 13,214 criminal arrest cases from the years 2005-2016 involving 10,901 individual nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers, each of whom were charged with one or more crimes. The arrested officers were employed by 4,104 state, local, and special law enforcement agencies located in 1,648 counties and independent cities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Search by Location



Search by Crime



Search by Victim



Methods

- We aim to capture criminal arrest cases of nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers within the United States since 2005.
 - Although we never claim to capture all cases, we do believe our methods capture the overall phenomenon of police crime.
- The Police Integrity Research Group utilizes Google Alerts™ which constantly crawl the Google News™ search engine to find cases of police crime.
- **Inclusion Criteria:**
 - The individual must be employed as a sworn nonfederal law enforcement officer:
 - At the time of their arrest and/or
 - At the time of commission of the crime(s)
 - The officer was arrested on/after January 1, 2005
- Once an officer/arrest has been identified, additional Google Alerts™ will be created to track the specific officer.
- Primary Unit of Analysis: Criminal Arrest Case

Identifying a Case

- Google Alerts and Google News Search Engine are utilized to identify a criminal arrest cases.
- News articles are printed and checked against our inclusion criteria for relevancy.
- This starts the beginning process of coding variables such as full name, officer's employing agency, city, county, state, and date of arrest.
- Once approved by a supervisor, our research assistants will enter this criminal arrest case into our internal object-relational database system.
- Additional Google Alerts are created to track that specific officer and criminal arrest case.

Offender Name (Last, First) _____	
Offender's Employer / Agency _____	
City (County) & State _____	COUNTY FIPS: _____
Case # _____	NEW CASE LOGGED IN BY: _____
Case Ref: _____ (i.e., Victim #, Arrest #)	TODAY'S DATE: _____
Date of Arrest _____ (mm/dd/yyyy)	APPROVED BY: _____
N-Number _____	DATA ENTERED INTO ONBASE BY: _____
	CASE FILES SCANNED INTO ONBASE BY: _____

NEW CASE LOG-IN SHEET

_____ MEETS CASE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (SEE BELOW CRITERIA)

_____ CHECKED NAME/ARREST AGAINST EXISTING BOOKING SHEET DATABASE

_____ *THIS IS A "NEW" OFFICER NOT FOUND IN OUR DATABASE*
OR
_____ *THIS IS AN OFFICER WHO IS ALREADY IN OUR DATASET FOR A DIFFERENT ARREST/CASE AND HIS/HER EXISTING N-NUMBER IS INDICATED IN THE BOX ABOVE*

_____ VERIFIED AGENCY, COUNTY, STATE & FIPS ON CSLLEA 2008 DATA SET

Case Eligibility Criteria:

(1) The person was employed as a sworn nonfederal law enforcement officer:
 a. at the time of their arrest *and/or*
 b. at the time of commission of the crime(s) for which they were arrested.

(2) The term "officer" includes sworn law enforcement officers with general powers of arrest and includes officers, troopers, deputies, constables, etc. An "officer" includes all ranks (e.g., officers, detectives, investigators, corporals, sergeants, lieutenants, captains, majors, colonels, inspectors, deputy chiefs, chief deputies, chiefs, sheriffs, commissioners, etc.).

(3) The officer was arrested on or after January 1, 2005.

(4) The officer's employing nonfederal law enforcement agency must be located within the United States (limited to those areas within and/or inclusive of the fifty states and the District of Columbia).

(5) "Officer" includes those who are employed full-time and/or part-time, as well as officers who are auxiliary or reserve officers.

(6) "Arrests" include arrests, indictments, charge by criminal information, charge by summons, etc. for criminal offenses. Traffic tickets alone do not meet the criteria for inclusion as a "case" in this research study.

(7) Use FIPS code for the county where the arrested officer's employing agency is located. For officers employed by a state or multi-county agency, use the FIPS code for the county where the officer regularly works (*not* where the agency HQ is located).

Continuously Tracking Cases

- After a case is identified, we track the case through the criminal courts process.
- Using Google Alerts, we gather Google News articles about the officer and criminal arrest cases and store these documents with our internal object-relational database.
- Court records and news videos are also obtained and stored.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VERSUS

KENNETH BOWEN
ROBERT GISEVIUS
ROBERT FAULCON
ANTHONY VILLAVASO
ARTHUR KAUFMAN
GERARD DUGUE

Judge tentatively sets August trial for former Fort Worth officer charged with murder

BY EMERSON CLARRIDGE

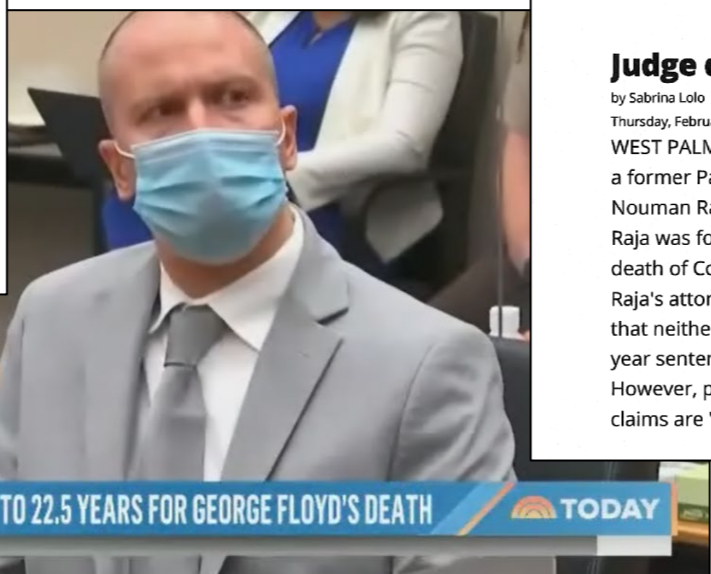
OCTOBER 27, 2020 03:49 PM, UPDATED OCTOBER 27, 2020 06:20 PM

A state district judge on Tuesday set a tentative window for the trial for a former Fort Worth police officer indicted on a murder charge in the death of a woman he shot as he and another officer handled an open structure call.

SECTION "N" (1)

ORDER AND REASONS

Before the Court is the Motion for New Trial (Rec. Doc. 963) originally urged by defendant Arthur Kaufman, and joined in by the other defendants in this matter who were tried and convicted in 2011 (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants" or "the defendants").¹ The government opposes this motion. (Rec. Doc. 1007.) The Court heard oral argument on the defendants' motion on June 13, 2012 (Rec. Doc. 1020). A detailed recounting of subsequent events is set forth in this Court's Order and Reasons dated November 26, 2012 (Rec. Doc. 1070). As an expected result of that Order, the



Judge denies Nouman Raja's sentence reconsideration | WPEC <https://cbs12.com/news/local/judge-denies-nouman->

Judge denies Nouman Raja's sentence reconsideration

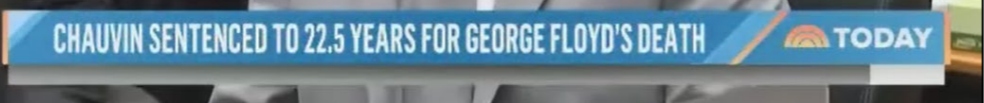
by Sabrina Lolo
Thursday, February 27th 2020

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CBS12) — A judge denied a sentence reconsideration request from a former Palm Beach Gardens police officer **convicted of killing a local church drummer**. Nouman Raja's request was denied Tuesday.

Raja was found guilty last year of attempted first-degree murder and manslaughter for the death of Corey Jones in 2015. He was **sentenced to 25 years** in prison.

Raja's attorneys had **filed a motion** back in January to correct "a sentencing error," claiming that neither the jury's verdict nor the evidence in the case were enough to support his 25-year sentence.

However, prosecutors said in a later court filing that Raja's request was "flawed" and the claims are "legally unsound."



Coding a Case

- Once sufficient time has passed for the majority of cases to be concluded, we code each case on over 270 variables.
 - Variables include but are not limited to:
 - Offense variables, types of crime, criminal case outcomes and sentencing, employment outcome, officer and victim demographic, and agency characteristics
- We utilize a data collection instrument (Unicom Intelligence Interviewer software) to code these cases. We have customized the survey instrument by building in logic and integrating it with our internal object-relational database system.
- Cases are coded by year of arrest. Once a full year is complete, inner-coder reliability and data cleaning processes are used to check for accuracy and consistency between coders.
- The year's worth of criminal arrest cases are then added to our master dataset and made publically available through the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database.
- Currently, information about 2005 through 2016 criminal arrest cases are publically available and we are working on coding 2017 criminal arrest cases.

Strengths and Limitations

- Limitations:

- Only captures criminal arrest cases – cases of police *misconduct* which do *not* result in a criminal charge are *not* included.
- Our knowledge of these cases are limited to *publically available* information, news articles, and court records.
- Using Google Alerts requires real-time data collection.

- Strengths:

- There are no other comprehensive, nationally representative datasets of police crime within the United States.
- Descriptive summary data which can inform the public of the breadth and depth of the problem.
- Our data lend itself well to more advanced quantitative data analysis techniques such as, logistic regression, CHAID and CART decision trees algorithms, and other predictive models.
- Using Google Alerts we have identified more cases than other more traditional methods.

Background

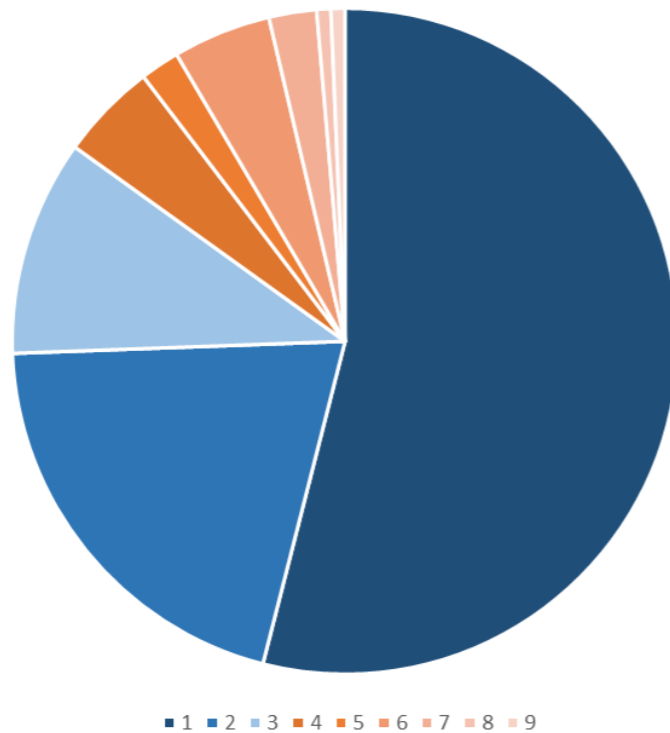
- Policing scholars have long recognized that police officers behave differently across community types.
- Some literature identifies factors that distinguish the work for *rural police*:
 1. Small police agencies are more concerned with crime prevention and service than large agencies
 2. Rural police are expected to perform a wider variety of tasks because these communities lack other social services resources
 3. Police-community relations in rural jurisdictions are more personal and informal, mainly due to dense relationship networks wherein citizens are more likely to know police on a personal level
- Police crime and misconduct occurring within rural jurisdictions is likely a function of the same place characteristics and culture that promote a unique style of rural policing, as well as a unique opportunity structure for the perpetration of police crime and misconduct.
- Low pay, boredom, inactivity, and role strain may be associated with police crime and misconduct in rural places.

Methods

- Defining rurality:
 - The United States Department of Agriculture’s classification for non-metropolitan counties is used to identify rurality.
 - This classification is based on population density and proximity to metropolitan areas.
 - The nine-point urban-rural continuum code is county-level.

Rural urban Continuum Code	Description
Metro counties	
1	Counties in metro areas of 1 million population or more
2	Counties in metro areas of 250 000 to 1 million population
3	Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250 000 population
Non-metro counties	
4	Urban population of 20 000 or more, adjacent to a metro area
5	Urban population of 20 000 or more, not adjacent to a metro area
6	Urban population of 2 500 to 19 999, adjacent to a metro area
7	Urban population of 2 500 to 19 999, not adjacent to a metro area
8	Completely rural or less than 2 500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area
9	Completely rural or less than 2 500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area

Urban Rural Continuum Code



Rural urban Continuum Code	Description
Metro counties	
1	Counties in metro areas of 1 million population or more
2	Counties in metro areas of 250 000 to 1 million population
3	Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250 000 population
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8	Completely rural or less than 2 500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area
9	Completely rural or less than 2 500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area

Metro Criminal Arrest Cases $n = 1,993$

Non-Metro Criminal Arrest Cases $n = 11,221$

Table 1A. Non-Metro Police Crime Arrest Cases, 2005-2016 (n = 1,993)

	<i>n</i>	%		<i>n</i>	%		<i>n</i>	%
Year of Arrest			Sex			Agency Type		
2005	54	2.7	Male	1,890	94.8	Primary State Police	92	4.6
2006	153	7.7	Female	103	5.2	Sheriff's Office	632	31.7
2007	163	8.2				County Police Dept.	41	2.1
2008	166	8.3	Age			Municipal Police Dept.	1,177	59.1
2009	143	7.2	19-23	68	3.4	Special Police Dept.	34	1.7
2010	192	9.6	24-27	157	7.9	Constable	9	0.5
2011	206	10.3	28-31	250	12.5	Tribal Police Dept.	8	0.4
2012	164	8.2	32-35	259	13.0	Regional Police Dept.	0	0.0
2013	192	9.6	36-39	280	14.0			
2014	173	8.7	40-43	214	10.7	Rank		
2015	215	10.8	44-47	191	9.6	Officer	1,437	72.1
2016	172	8.6	48-51	121	6.1	Detective	69	3.5
			52-55	81	4.1	Corporal	21	1.1
Method of Crime Detection			56 or older	84	4.2	Sergeant	139	7.0
Citizen Complaint	1,102	55.3	Missing	288	14.5	Lieutenant	43	2.2
Other	891	44.7				Captain	29	1.5
			Years of Service			Major	6	0.3
Arresting Agency			0-2	278	13.9	Colonel	1	0.1
Employing Agency	337	16.9	3-5	218	10.9	Deputy Chief	28	1.4
Another Agency	1,656	83.1	6-8	126	6.3	Chief	220	11.0
			9-11	111	5.6			
Officer Duty Status			12-14	94	4.7	Function		
On-Duty	855	42.9	15-17	81	4.1	Patrol & Street Level	1,506	75.6
Off-Duty	1,138	57.1	18-20	79	4.0	Line/Field Supervisor	203	10.2
			21-23	31	1.6	Management	284	14.2
Official Capacity			24-26	35	1.8			
Official Capacity	971	48.7	27 or more years	35	1.8	Region of United States		
Individual Capacity	1,022	51.3	Missing	905	45.4	Northeastern States	166	8.3
						Midwestern States	430	21.6
						Southern States	1,105	55.4
						Western States	292	14.7

Table 1B. Metro Police Crime Arrest Cases, 2005-2016 (n = 11,221)

	<i>n</i>	%		<i>n</i>	%		<i>n</i>	%
Year of Arrest			Sex			Agency Type		
2005	407	3.6	Male	10,502	93.6	Primary State Police	409	3.6
2006	773	6.9	Female	719	6.4	Sheriff's Office	1,826	16.3
2007	825	7.4				County Police Dept.	548	4.9
2008	972	8.7	Age			Municipal Police Dept.	8,046	71.7
2009	903	8.0	19-23	188	1.7	Special Police Dept.	325	2.9
2010	1,017	9.1	24-27	990	8.8	Constable	36	0.3
2011	1,139	10.2	28-31	1,426	12.7	Tribal Police Dept.	21	0.2
2012	1,111	9.9	32-35	1,607	14.3	Regional Police Dept.	10	0.1
2013	984	8.8	36-39	1,655	14.7			
2014	1,066	9.5	40-43	1,623	14.5	Rank		
2015	1,038	9.3	44-47	1,221	10.9	Officer	8,572	76.4
2016	986	8.8	48-51	705	6.3	Detective	623	5.6
			52-55	368	3.3	Corporal	226	2.0
Method of Crime Detection			56 or older	336	3.0	Sergeant	985	8.8
Citizen Complaint	6,191	55.2	Missing	1,102	9.8	Lieutenant	325	2.9
Other	5,030	44.8				Captain	109	1.0
			Years of Service			Major	22	0.2
Arresting Agency			0-2	1,056	9.4	Colonel	9	0.1
Employing Agency	3,479	31.0	3-5	1,564	13.9	Deputy Chief	57	0.5
Another Agency	7,742	69.0	6-8	1,264	11.3	Chief	293	2.6
			9-11	1,103	9.8			
Officer Duty Status			12-14	924	8.2	Function		
On-Duty	4,224	37.6	15-17	801	7.1	Patrol & Street Level	9,195	81.9
Off-Duty	6,997	62.4	18-20	738	6.6	Line/Field Supervisor	1,536	13.7
			21-23	372	3.3	Management	490	4.4
Official Capacity			24-26	297	2.6			
Official Capacity	4,992	44.5	27 or more years	352	3.1	Region of United States		
Individual Capacity	6,229	55.5	Missing	2,750	24.5	Northeastern States	2,525	22.5
						Midwestern States	2,118	18.9
						Southern States	4,850	43.2
						Western States	1,728	15.4

Table 2. Types of Police Crime

<i>Type of Crime</i>	<i>Non-Metro</i>		<i>Metro</i>	
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Drug-Related	255	12.8	1,042	9.3
Alcohol-Related	353	17.7	2,329	20.8
Sex-Related	510	25.6	2,421	21.6
Violence-Related	954	47.9	5,812	51.8
Profit Motivated	484	24.3	2,438	21.7

Note: These crime types are not mutually exclusive

Table 3. Most Serious Offense Charged

<i>Most Common Offenses</i>	<i>Non-Metro</i>		<i>Most Common Offenses</i>	<i>Metro</i>	
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>		<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Simple Assault	241	12.1	Simple Assault	1,586	14.1
DUI	205	10.3	DUI	1,434	12.8
Forcible Fondling	115	5.8	Aggravated Assault	1,062	9.5
Aggravated Assault	114	5.7	Forcible Rape	491	4.4
Drug/Narcotic Violations	103	5.2	Forcible Fondling	436	3.9

Table 4. Final Employment and Criminal Case Outcomes				
	<i>Non-Metro</i>		<i>Metro</i>	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Employment Outcome				
No Action	196	9.8	1,052	9.4
Suspended, Kept Job	369	18.5	3,230	28.8
Lost Job	1,428	71.7	6,939	61.8
Criminal Case Outcome				
Conviction	1,006	50.5	2,668	23.8
Non-Conviction	401	20.1	5,556	49.5
Unknown	586	29.4	2,997	26.7

Conclusions

- Are there any differences between rural and urban police crime?
 - **Arresting Agency:** The officer's employing agency is more likely to be the arresting agency in cases of metro police crime.
 - **Duty Status:** Metro police crime is more likely to be committed on-duty and within the officer's official capacity.
 - **Officer Rank:** Non-metro police chiefs account for 11% of all non-metro police crime cases, but less than 3% of metro police crime cases.
 - **Types of Crime:** Drug-related, sex-related, and profit-motivated police crime are relatively more prominent in non-metro areas compared to metro areas. Alcohol-related and violence-related police crime are relatively more prominent in metro areas compared to non-metro areas.
 - **Employment Outcome:** Cases of non-metro police crime are more likely to result in the arrested officer losing their job compared to cases of metro police crime.
 - **Criminal Case Outcome:** Cases of non-metro police crime are more likely to result in the arrested officer being convicted of a crime compared to cases of metro police crime.

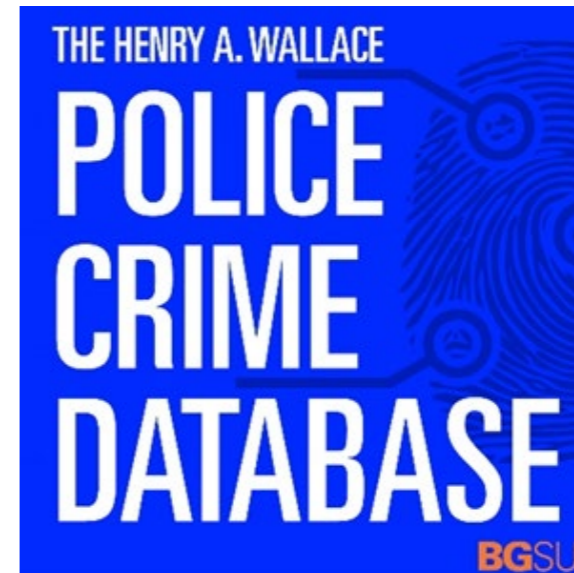
Directions for Future Research

- Do these differences truly mean anything, and can they be explained by prior theory/literature?
- Could the real finding of this research conclude that non-metro police crime and metro police crime are quite similar despite our expectations?
- Do these data explain differences in the criminal behavior of the officers or is there a selection effect associated with *who* is actually arrested?
- Are there selection effects associated with the news coverage of police crime and misconduct for metro and non-metro areas?

Thank you!

Henry A. Wallace Public
Police Crime Database

<https://policecrime.bgsu.edu/>



Police Integrity Research Group

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