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Foundations of Police Integrity: Data Collection and Methods for Tracking Police Crime

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Casey, Logan; Jackson, Tyson; Whetstone, Molly A.; Kopf Apple, Samantha; Cooke, Eric M.; and Stinson, Philip M., "Foundations of Police Integrity: Data Collection and Methods for Tracking Police Crime" (2025). *Criminal Justice Faculty Publications*. 153.
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BGSU | Police Integrity Research Group

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Foundations of Police Integrity: Data Collection and Methods for Tracking Police Crime

Logan Casey, Tyson Jackson, Molly Whetstone, Samantha Kopf Apple, Ph.D.; Eric M. Cooke, Ph.D.; Philip M. Stinson, J.D., Ph.D.

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 2025 Annual Meeting
Denver, CO
Thursday, March 13, 2025

Support for this project was provided by the Wallace Action Fund of Tides Foundation. This project was also supported by Award No. 2011-IJ-CX-0024 awarded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.

Historical Background on Police Misconduct Data

- Historically, the federal government does not systematically collect, analyze, or disseminate data on crimes committed by police officers.
  - The **George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 7120)** sought to increase accountability, enhance data transparency, and establish best practices. However, the bill passed the house but was stalled in the Senate, leaving no immediate federal initiative for comprehensive data collection on police crime.

- 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.

- 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.

Recent Background on Police Misconduct Data

- The tracking of police crime has been a hot topic issue in recent years.
    - In *2020*, President Trump issued an executive order where he proposed the creation of a police crime database in response to the killing of George Floyd.
    - The data set was not created until a second executive order by President Joe Biden in *2023*, when he formed the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD).
    - In *2025,* President Trump issued an order for the Justice Department to shut down NLEAD .

Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database

- 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.

- The Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database is a research project of Dr. 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 **18,032 criminal arrest cases** of nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers (e.g., police officers, state troopers, deputy sheriffs) from the years **2005-2019**. The data includes information on **14,722 individual nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers**.
    - The arrested officers were employed by **5,033** state, local, and special law enforcement agencies located in **1,889** counties and independent cities in all **50 states** and the District of Columbia.

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Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database

- Publicly 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.

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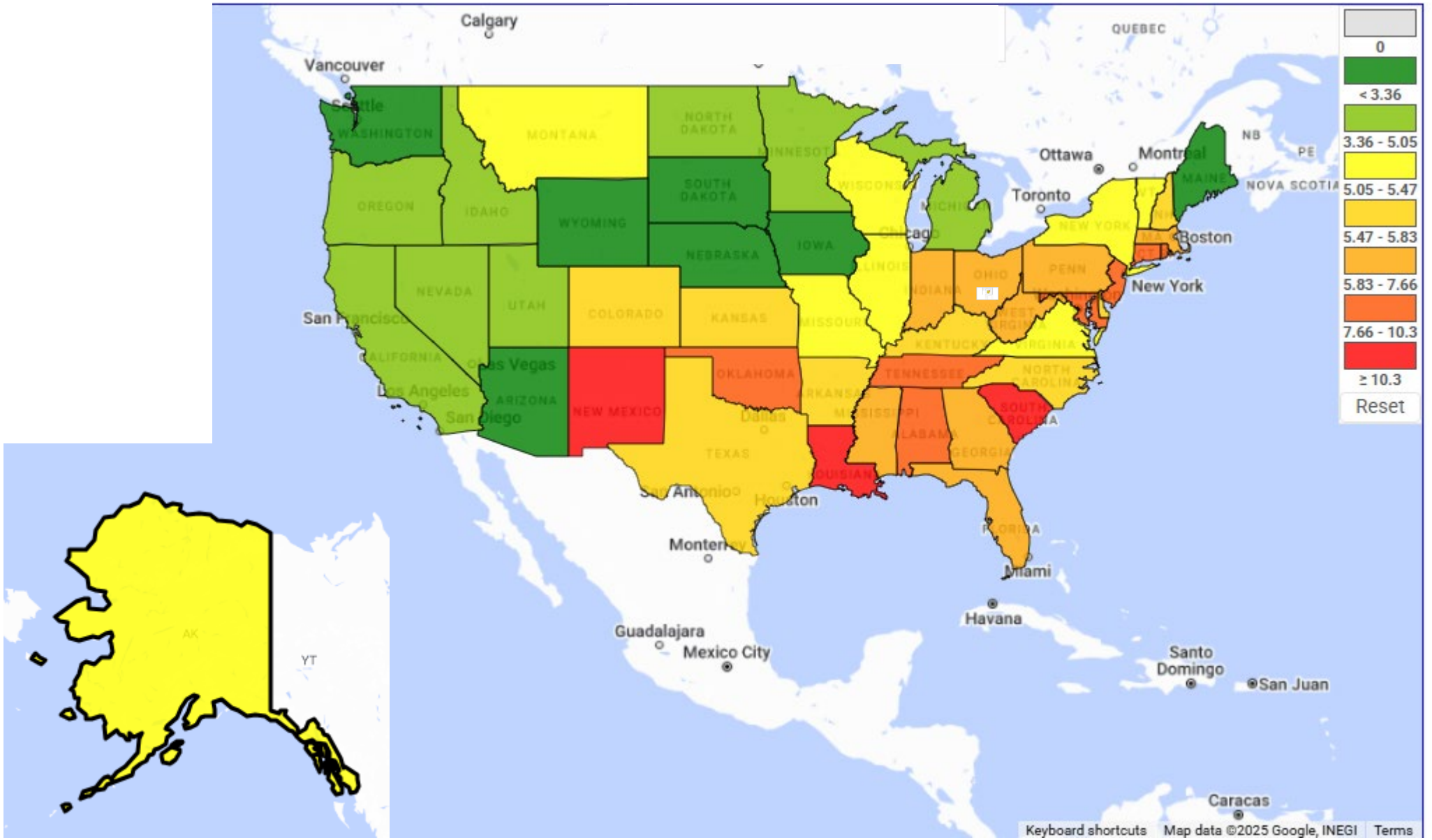
Rates of Police Crime Cases per 100,000 Population



Location and Year of Arrest

State*
Ohio
County
Year of Arrest

Crime Type

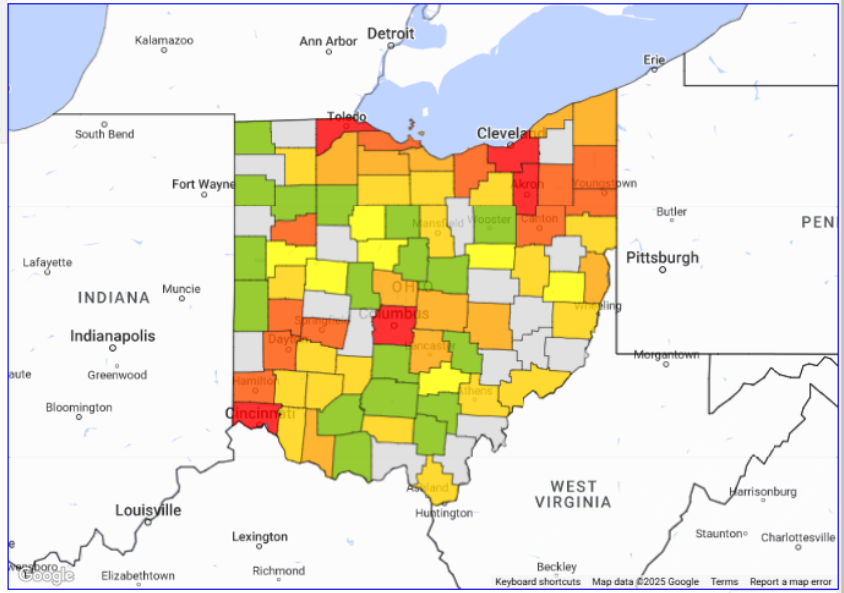
Crimes Charged

Outcome

Reset search

Search by Location

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 18,032 criminal arrest cases from the years 2005-2019 involving 14,722 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.



High Contrast

Alcohol-Related | Sex-Related | Violence-Related | Profit-Motivated | Drug-Related | Other | Ohio

Summary | Details

Show 25 entries

Search:

ID	Date	County	Agency	Drug Related	Alcohol-Related	Sex-Related	Violence-Related	Profit-Motivated	Other
10447N08619	02/15/2015	Adams County	Adams County Sheriff's Office	✔		✔	✔		
04375N03750	03/17/2008	Allen County	Lima Police Department				✔		
04376N03750	03/17/2008	Allen County	Lima Police Department				✔		
06200N05274	07/12/2010	Allen County	Lima Police Department		✔		✔		
10879N09012	06/10/2015	Allen County	Lima Police Department		✔	✔	✔		
14249N11883	03/15/2018	Allen County	Lima Police Department				✔		
18042N14804	12/19/2019	Allen County	Lima Police Department						✔
14592N12153	06/13/2018	Allen County	Allen County Sheriff's Office					✔	
19779N16112	03/25/2008	Allen County	Allen County Sheriff's Office		✔				
19780N16112	02/19/2010	Allen County	Allen County Sheriff's Office				✔		
19781N16113	02/12/2010	Allen County	Allen County Sheriff's Office				✔		
17468N14343	02/07/2014	Allen County	Bluffton Police Department			✔	✔		
00914N00916	12/14/2006	Ashtabula County	North Kingsville Police Department				✔		
00974N00916	12/14/2006	Ashtabula County	North Kingsville Police Department				✔		

Arrested Officer Information:

Arrested Officer:	10447N08619
Age:	46
Years of Service:	25
Sex:	M
Arrested Officer Ethnicity:	Non-Hispanic
Arrested Officer Race:	Non-Black
Rank:	Deputy Chief/ Chief Deputy

Arrested Officer's Employer:

Employing Agency:	Adams County Sheriff's Office
Agency ID:	12668750
City:	West Union
County:	Adams County
State:	OH
Type of Agency:	Sheriff's Department

Case Information:

Date of Arrest:	2/15/2015
Most Serious Offense Charged:	Forcible rape
Type of Crime:	Drug-Related Sex-Related 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
Drug Type:	Unknown
Drug Offense:	Drugs: Sexually-motivated Drug-related crime

Case Status:

Adverse Employment Outcome:	Officer was suspended for a period of time Officer resigned from employment
Criminal Case Disposition:	Officer was convicted of crime
Pre Trial Release:	Officer was held in custody pending trial or disposition
Conviction Level:	Officer was convicted of a felony
Conviction Type:	Officer was convicted by a guilty plea
Most Serious Sentence:	Officer was sentenced to prison
Incarceration Length:	30 months
Appellate Review:	Conviction was not appealed

Victim Information:

Victim Sex:	F
Victim Age:	15
Victim Ethnicity:	Non-Hispanic
Victim Race:	Non-Black
Victim is Sex Worker:	No
Victim is Police Officer:	No
Victim Relationship:	Victim is an unrelated child
Victim Injury:	Serious Physical Injuries

POLICE CRIME DATABASE
Database v.081324.1006
© 2024 - Philip Matthew Stinson
Support for the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database was provided by the Wallace Action Fund of Tides

Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database: Methods

- We aim to capture criminal arrest cases of nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers within the United States.
  - 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 monitor the Google News search engine to find cases of police crime.

- Case 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

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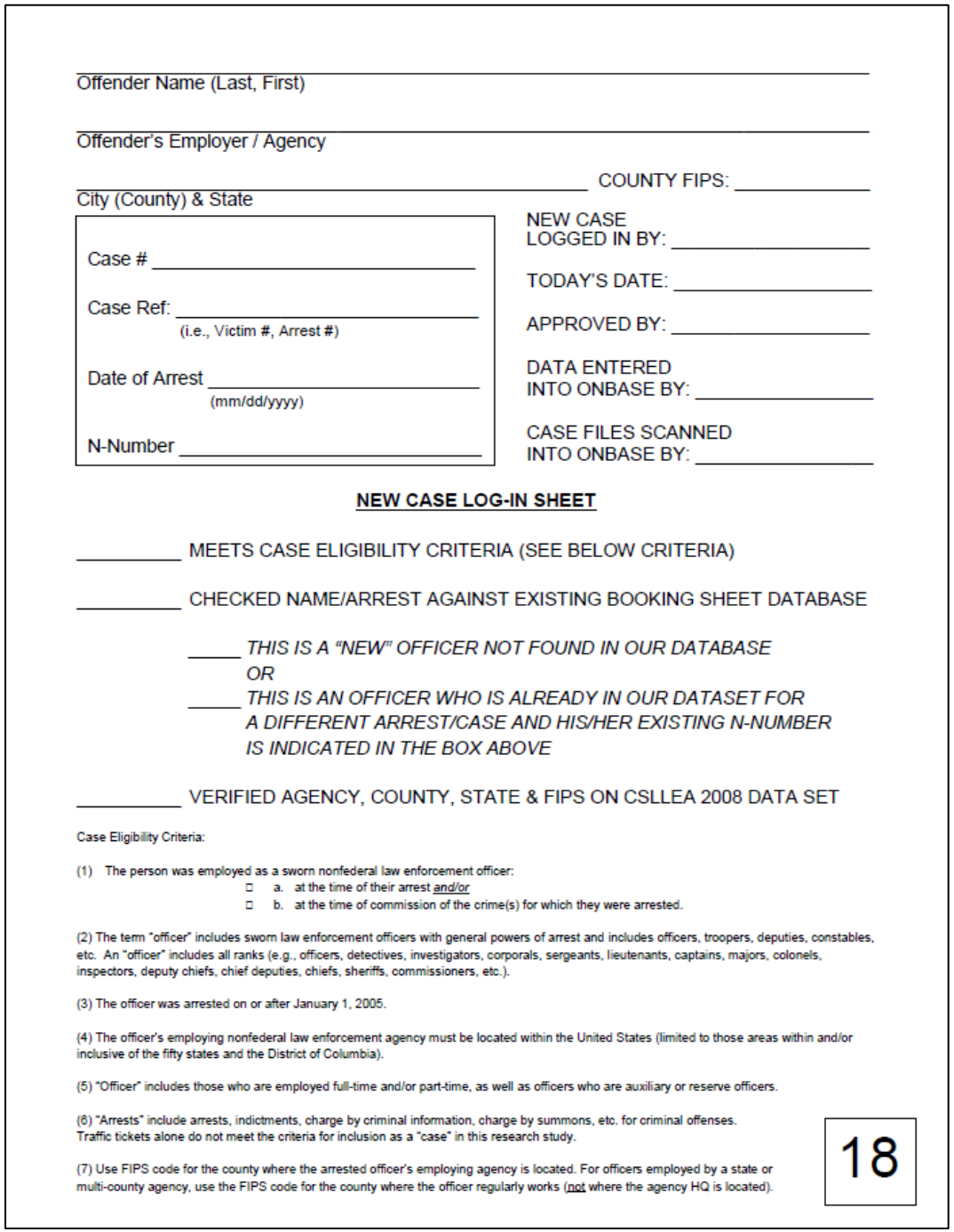
Methods: Identifying a Case

- 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 # _____

Case Ref: _____
(i.e., Victim #, Arrest #)

Date of Arrest _____
(mm/dd/yyyy)

N-Number _____

NEW CASE LOGGED IN BY: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

APPROVED BY: _____

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).

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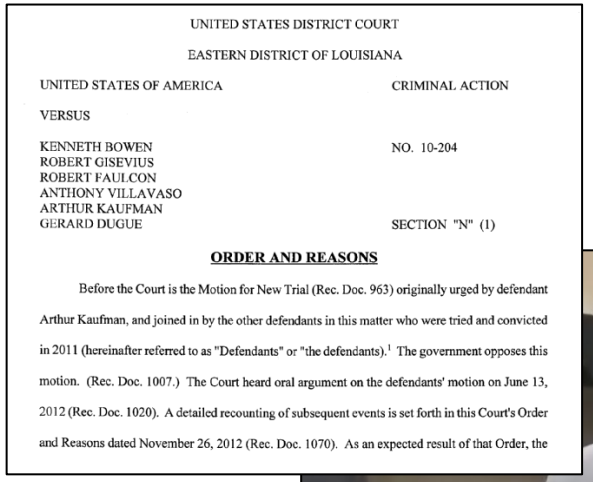
Methods: Continuously Tracking Cases

- 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 (OnBase).

- Court records and news videos are also obtained and stored.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA — CRIMINAL ACTION

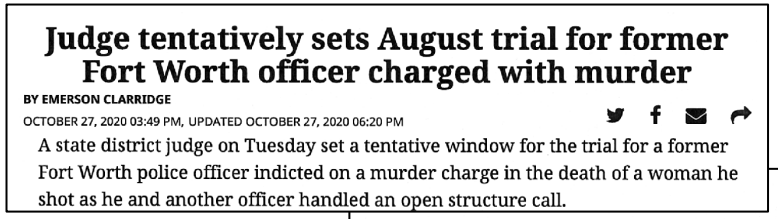
VERSUS

KENNETH BOWEN
ROBERT GISEVIUS
ROBERT FAULCON
ANTHONY VILLAVASO
ARTHUR KAUFMAN
GERARD DUGUE — NO. 10-204

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 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.

https://cbs12.com/news/local/judge-denies-nouman-

Judge denies Nouman Raja's sentence reconsideration

by Sabrina Lolo

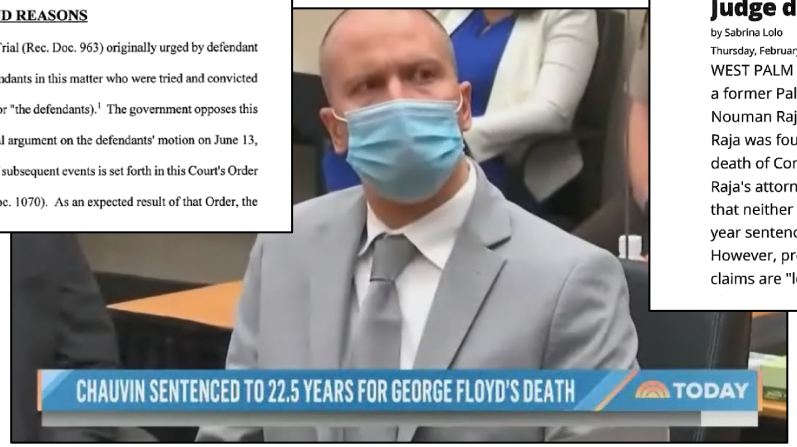
Thursday, February 27th 2020

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."



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Methods: Coding a Case

- Once sufficient time has passed for most case outcomes to conclude, we code each case on over 270 variables, such as:
  - 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, intercoder 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 publicly available through the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database.

- Currently, information for criminal arrest cases from 2005 through 2019 are publicly available and we are currently completing the cleaning process for 2020 criminal arrest cases.

Strengths and Limitations

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 tree algorithms, and other predictive models.
- Using Google Alerts, we have identified more cases than other methods.

Limitations:

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

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