



Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

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New Crime Scene Tool Cuts Time in Field by Assistant Special Agent in Charge Brad Green

OSBI recently purchased two scanning devices that will serve as amazing tools for crime scene agents in the precise documentation of a crime scene. The FARO Focus is a 3D, 360 degree scanning device that will dramatically improve the quality of scene documentation and provide more realistic imaging in a courtroom setting.

One of the most time-consuming parts of a crime scene investigation is scene documentation. The current workflow of OSBI crime scene agents is to measure crime scenes by hand or with Total Stations, which use a laser to measure distance and slope to identify points of interest. Even when using Total Stations, points are determined by the agent and collected individually. A large scene documented with a Total Station will typically have up to 200-300 documented points. Additionally, the usage of a Total Station takes a significant amount of time to set up, level, and capture all of the deemed necessary points. As investigations progress, new information is inevitably obtained, some of which makes items/areas not initially deemed important, to be critical. Traditional scene documentation, or even that with a Total Station, does not allow for these new details to be captured. Essentially, you have “one shot” to collect data with these methods. For example, when documenting a murder scene, it may not initially be apparent that the relationship between two items is important. As the investigation progresses or enters the prosecution phase, those questions often arise. Under OSBI’s crime scene current workflow, those questions are not easily answered. Criminal investigations are fluid and the ability to capture a scene in its entirety will aid the ultimate mission of the OSBI, which is to fully and professionally investigate crimes, bring offenders to answer for their crimes, and ensure victims are given the justice they deserve. The FARO Focus 3D Scanner is the most up-to-date method in crime scene data collection.



Asst. Special Agent in Charge Beth Green works with FARO

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This revolutionary device documents crime scenes by way of laser scanning and photography and has the capability to collect millions of data

points in a matter of minutes. The FARO captures said points of data, which can later be utilized to display and determine distances, etc. between any two points in the finished product. The finished product can be disseminated to the district attorney for use in prosecutions, providing juries the opportunity to view a crime scene in a new way. In the past, crime scene agents have provided photographs and, at times, video-taped crime scenes. The FARO scanned scene can be utilized, along with photographs, to expand the jury's understanding of what the scene "actually" looked like. Essentially, the jury and attorneys will be able to walk through the crime scene and obtain viewpoints that may not be available through photographs alone.

The OSBI recently purchased two of these devices and accessories for each. One unit will be maintained in the eastern section of the state and the other one will be maintained in the western section.

Before using the FARO scanners in the field, OSBI crime scene agents must obtain certification. As of now, six crime scene agents, including the two supervisors, have been through the training and successfully completed the certification process to use the scanners. Crime scene agents attended an intense, three day school in Irving, Texas. Agents were taught to use the scanner in various environments, both indoor and outdoor. At the end of the training, agents were given a certification test. All six OSBI crime scene agents passed. Future plans include training and certifying all of the crime scene agents across the state to use the FARO scanners.

To our knowledge, the only other agencies using this technology in Oklahoma are the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the Oklahoma City Police Department.



OSBI CSI agents learn to use the FARO

Using IBIS to Link Oklahoma Crimes

by Kate Crandell/OSBI Firearms Analyst

The Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) is a database of fired cartridge cases, whether crime evidence or test fires from confiscated firearms. It is utilized by law enforcement agencies within the United States through the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), which is operated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.



Firearms Analyst Kate Crandell enters information into IBIS database

This database is meant to provide timely investigative leads by linking crimes by the firearm(s) used. However, those investigative leads potentially lose value as more time passes between the offense date and entry into the system. To optimize IBIS, the OSBI firearms laboratory has recently begun a pilot program with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and Midwest City Police Department. The goal is to have all eligible firearms evidence submitted by these two agencies entered into IBIS within five business days of submission to the Forensic Science Center, in hopes of producing IBIS-generated investigative leads. Such leads have the potential to identify persons of interest in suspect-less crimes, increase the number of charges and convictions,

and identify general geographical "hot spots" of gun crime.

With its expected success, this pilot program will hopefully be applied to all Oklahoma law enforcement agencies which we serve. As it is the goal of the OSBI to aid all law enforcement agencies in the state of Oklahoma, timely IBIS entry will be an additional tool used to reach that goal.

OSBI Research Staff Studies Crime Victimization in Oklahoma

By Angie Baker/Research Director

The Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center completed the third statewide crime victimization survey recently. The purpose of the Oklahoma Crime Victimization Survey is to generate statewide crime estimates for Oklahoma. Victimization Surveys are designed to collect information from citizens about crime – both reported and unreported. Survey results are often used to complement data collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Criminal justice practitioners and policy makers use findings from crime victimization surveys to make informed program and funding decisions. Results from this year’s survey are based on a random sample of 736 Oklahomans. The survey, funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, was administered by the University of Oklahoma’s Public Opinion Learning Laboratory. Results will be published online in September.

Tracking Oklahoma Violent Deaths

By Jennifer Powell/Administrative Programs Officer

“The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) provides states and communities with a clearer understanding of violent deaths to guide local decisions about efforts to prevent violence and track progress over time. NVDRS is the only state-based surveillance (reporting) system that pools data on violent deaths from multiple sources into a usable, anonymous database.” ~Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The NVDRS is a state-based surveillance system that was created in 2002; Oklahoma joined in 2004. Currently, 32 states participate but the goal is to include data for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and all US territories. Three main sources that contribute data to the NVDRS are law enforcement reports, death certificates, and medical examiner reports. Data are collected on suicides, homicides, legal intervention (including commissioned law enforcement officers and armed security guards), unintentional firearm deaths, violent deaths of an undetermined manner, and terrorism-related deaths.

The Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OKVDRS), which houses the Oklahoma data that is submitted to the NVDRS, is a collaborative effort between the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board. The OSBI contributes data from law enforcement reports; the OSDH contributes data from death certificates and medical examiner reports.

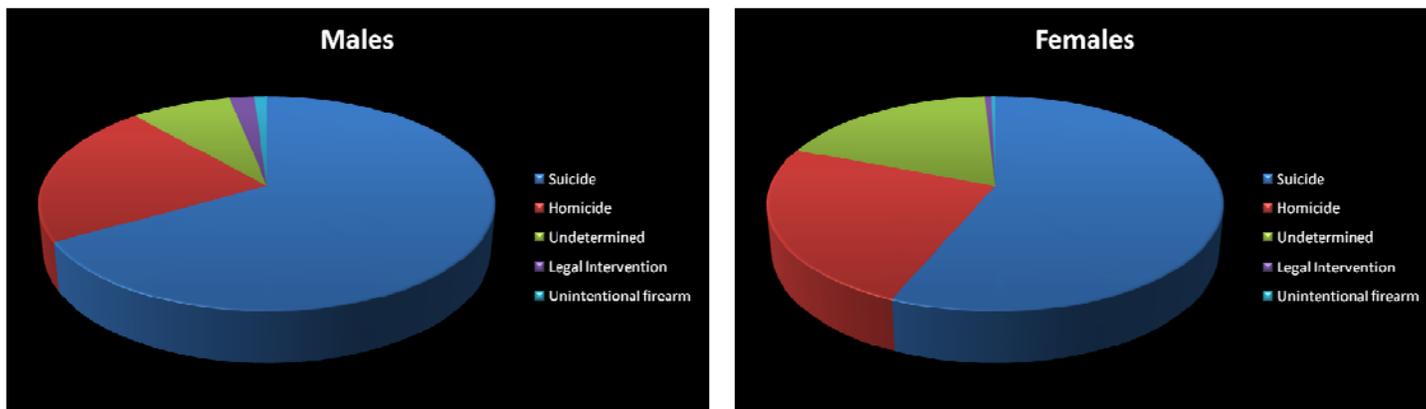
According to the OKVDRS, there were 5,243 violent deaths in Oklahoma between 2010 and 2014, an average of 1,048 violence-related deaths each year. See the table and charts below for additional breakdown of the data. If you are interested in additional information, Oklahoma data can be located at the following websites: www.okvdrs.health.ok.gov and <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>.

Manner of Death by Sex, Oklahoma Residents, OKVDRS 2010-2014

		Sex	
		Male	Female
Manner of Death	Suicide	2641	725
	Homicide	862	315
	Unintentional Firearm	43	7
	Legal Intervention	80	§
	Undetermined	331	235

§ some data has been suppressed due to small numbers

The above table is further illustrated in the charts below which provide a more visual representation of the numbers of victims by manner of death as related to males and for females.



As you can see from the above charts, the number of suicide victims in Oklahoma for the past five years exceeds the number of the other manners of death and accounts for 64% of the violent deaths in the state. Several resources are available for anyone contemplating suicide, a suicide attempt survivor, and surviving friends and family. Please visit the following websites to learn about some of those resources.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/suicide/index.html>

https://www.ok.gov/health/Disease_Prevention_Preparedness/Injury_Prevention_Service/Fact_Sheets/IPS-FShtm_Suicide_An_American_Crisis_English.html

<http://sde.ok.gov/sde/suicide-prevention>

<http://afsp.org/chapter/afsp-oklahoma/> (Oklahoma chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention)

Oklahoma State Charitable Campaign by Nikki Loftus/Statistical Research Analyst

Every year, the United Way of Central Oklahoma partners with state agencies for the State Charitable Campaign (SCC) as a way to help raise money for charities across Oklahoma. Local nonprofit organizations receive more than \$500,000 from state employees annually. During the SCC, state employees participate in various fundraising events at their workplace to help raise money for the campaign.

The OSBI will participate in the SCC during the month of October, with a goal of raising \$10,000 this year. Some of the fundraising events taking place at the OSBI include a chili cook-off, bake sale, parking spot auction, jail and bail, trash to treasure, jeans day, and several raffles. These events not only allow employees to give back to the community but also encourage fun interaction within the agency.

The OSBI has participated in the SCC for several years. Since 2013, the OSBI has raised over \$33,000.

For more information on the State Charitable Campaign, please visit:

<http://www.unitedwayokc.org/workplace-campaigns/state-charitable-campaign>.