

Appendix A

Cover Letter and Survey

First Responder & Crime Scene Forensic Response

Dear Agency,

My name is Laura Pazarena and I am a member of the Forensic Community employed at a Law Enforcement Agency and a student at National University (NU). I am conducting a study to learn more about various agencies methods in the collection and analysis of forensic evidence. I am also looking into the cost involved to maintain forensic processing at an agency. I am asking professionals in law enforcement to complete a survey. The results will be reported in a thesis that I will complete as a requirement of my graduate program.

The following survey includes questions that ask you to describe your agency's method of forensic evidence collection and the results you receive from each group. There are also questions based on your opinion and expertise as law enforcement professional. The survey also includes questions about the income and education levels of various positions at your agency. It will take about 25 minutes of your time to complete the survey, depending on your agency's record management system.

The purpose and goal of this survey is to provide information to agencies in regards to the best practices and most cost effective way to set up, implement, or maintain forensic processing. In today's society, law enforcement agencies are expected by the public to provide forensic results quickly, efficiently, and accurately. The overwhelming number of crime scene investigation shows has drawn public attention to the forensics involved in criminal cases. Many agencies struggle to find a way to implement forensic units that are both cost effective and provide the best results. By providing data from your agency in this study a comparison of the most cost effective method and the results received by different processing members will be done that may benefit your agency greatly. Your participation in this study is voluntary. If you decide to participate, your responses will be anonymous - that is, recorded without any identifying information that is linked to you. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact me at 386-264-5153. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a human subject and participant in this study, or to report research-related problems, you may call the Institutional Review Board at NU for information, at (858) 642-8384, or irb@nu.edu.

Thank you for your consideration and participation.

Sincerely,

Laura Pazarena

Graduate Student – National University

First Responder & Crime Scene Forensic Response

Please read each question and answer to the best of your ability. If you do not know an answer or do not have access to the information please indicate this in the comments at the end. If any agency receiving this survey is interested in seeing the final statistical comparison and results, please indicate this in the comments as well. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Question 1

Does your agency have a dedicated Crime Scene Investigations Unit or a Unit that is comparable?

Yes

No (please go to Question 6)

Question 2

Which of the following personnel comprise your Crime Scene Investigations Unit?

Solely sworn law enforcement personnel

Solely civilian personnel

A mixture of sworn law enforcement and civilian personnel

Question 3

What types of scenes does your Crime Scene Unit respond to?

Only major cases such as homicides, armed robberies, home invasions, etc.

Both major and minor cases such as those above and burglaries, car breaks, minor injury cases.

Question 4

If your Crime Scene Unit has sworn law enforcement personnel is forensic processing of crime scenes their main function?

Yes

No (Please answer Question 5)

N/A

Question 5

What other functions do the sworn members of your Crime Scene Unit serve?

Question 6

Does your agency require first responding officers who answer calls for service to process scenes forensically?

Yes

No (Please skip Question 7)

Question 7

What types of scenes do these officers process?

Only major cases such as homicides, armed robberies, home invasions, etc.

Only minor cases such as burglaries, car breaks, minor injury cases, etc.

Both major and minor cases such as those listed above.

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The following questions refer to members of your agency and Crime Scene Investigations Unit. Please answer all questions, if they are not applicable please indicate this.

Question 8

What is the average education level of your sworn first responding officers?

High School

Associates Degree

Bachelor's Degree

Master's Degree

Unknown

N/A

Other:

Question 9

What is the average education level of your sworn Crime Scene Unit members?

High School

Associates Degree

Bachelor's Degree

Master's Degree

Unknown

N/A

Other:

Question 10

What is the average education level of your civilian Crime Scene Unit members?

High School

Associates Degree

Bachelor's Degree

Master's Degree

Unknown

N/A

Other:

Question 11

What is the average annual salary of your sworn first responding officers, not including overtime?

\$20,000 - 29,999

\$30,000 - 39,999

\$40,000 - 49,999

\$50,000 - 59,999

\$60,000 - 70,000

Over \$70,000

Unknown

N/A

Other:

Question 12

What is the average annual salary of your sworn Crime Scene Unit members, not including overtime?

\$20,000 - 29,999
\$30,000 - 39,999
\$40,000 - 49,999
\$50,000 - 59,999
\$60,000 - 70,000
Over \$70,000
Unknown
N/A
Other:

Question 13

What is the average annual salary of your civilian Crime Scene Unit members, not including overtime?

\$20,000 - 29,999
\$30,000 - 39,999
\$40,000 - 49,999
\$50,000 - 59,999
\$60,000 - 70,000
Over \$70,000
Unknown
N/A
Other:

Question 14

Are your first responding officers in the special risk retirement category?

Yes No

Question 15

Are your sworn Crime Scene Unit members in the special risk retirement category?

Yes No Not applicable

Question 16

Are your civilian Crime Scene Unit members in the special risk retirement category?

Yes No Not applicable

Question 17

At what rate of pay do your first responding officers receive overtime?

Straight time Time and a half

Question 18

At what rate of pay do your sworn Crime Scene Unit members receive overtime?

Straight time Time and a half N/A

Question 19

At what rate of pay do your civilian Crime Scene Unit members receive overtime?

Straight time Time and a half N/A

Question 20

What is the average crime scene experience in number of years of your first responding officers?

Question 21

What is the average crime scene experience in number of years of your sworn Crime Scene Unit members? If not applicable please enter N/A.

Question 22

What is the average crime scene experience in number of years of your civilian Crime Scene Unit members? If not applicable please enter N/A.

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The following questions refer specifically to evidence collected by members of your agency and the laboratory results.

Question 23

Please indicate the average number of identifications made from fingerprint evidence collected by first responding officers at your agency (if not applicable please indicate this):

Question 24

How many of the identifications from Question 23 led to prosecutions?

Question 25

Please indicate the average number of identifications made from DNA evidence collected by first responding officers at your agency (if not applicable please indicate this):

Question 26

How many of the identifications from Question 25 led to prosecutions?

Question 27

Please indicate the average number of identifications made from fingerprint evidence collected by sworn crime scene unit members at your agency (if not applicable please indicate this):

Question 28

How many of the identifications from Question 27 led to prosecutions?

Question 29

Please indicate the average number of identifications made from DNA evidence collected by sworn crime scene unit members at your agency (if not applicable please indicate this):

Question 30

How many of the identifications from Question 29 led to prosecutions?

Question 31

Please indicate the average number of identifications made from fingerprint evidence collected by civilian crime scene unit members at your agency (if not applicable please indicate this):

Question 32

How many of the identifications from Question 31 led to prosecutions?

Question 33

Please indicate the average number of identifications made from DNA evidence collected by civilian crime scene unit members at your agency (if not applicable please indicate this):

Question 34

How many of the identifications from Question 33 led to prosecutions?

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The following questions refer specifically to your professional experience and opinion in relation to forensic evidence collection and the laboratory results.

Question 35

Based on your professional experience and opinion please indicate the likelihood that fingerprint evidence collected by first responding officers will obtain an identification. 1 being least likely and 5 being most likely.

Question 36

Based on your professional experience and opinion please indicate the likelihood that DNA evidence collected by first responding officers will obtain an identification. 1 being least likely and 5 being most likely.

Question 37

Based on your professional experience and opinion please indicate the likelihood that fingerprint evidence collected by sworn crime scene unit members will obtain an identification. 1 being least likely and 5 being most likely.

Question 38

Based on your professional experience and opinion please indicate the likelihood that DNA evidence collected by sworn crime scene unit members will obtain an identification. 1 being least likely and 5 being most likely.

Question 39

Based on your professional experience and opinion please indicate the likelihood that fingerprint evidence collected by civilian crime scene unit members will obtain an identification. 1 being least likely and 5 being most likely.

Question 40

Based on your professional experience and opinion please indicate the likelihood that DNA evidence collected by civilian crime scene unit members will obtain an identification. 1 being least likely and 5 being most likely.

Question 41

Do you believe there would be a significant difference in the number of identifications from evidence collected by sworn crime scene unit members versus civilian crime scene unit members?

Yes

No

Question 42

Do you believe there would be a significant difference in the number of identifications from evidence collected by crime scene unit members, sworn or civilian, and first responding officers?

Yes

No

Question 43

Based on your professional experience and opinion please indicate the likelihood that evidence collected by civilian or sworn crime scene unit members will obtain a prosecution. 1 being least likely and 5 being most likely.

Question 44

Based on your professional experience and opinion please indicate the likelihood that evidence collected by first responding officers will obtain a prosecution. 1 being least likely and 5 being most likely.

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The following questions refer to your personal role at your agency.

Question 45

What is your job title?

Question 46

How long have you been in your current position?

Question 47

How many years have you been in law enforcement?

Question 48

How many years have you been involved in crime scene processing or evidence collection? If not applicable please enter N/A.

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Please give any additional feedback, comments, or questions.

Appendix B

Follow Up Letter

Dear Agency,

Thank you in advance for your participation in the survey request that was sent to you on August 5, 2015. This is a follow up reminder in regards to the importance of your answers to the survey. Due to the complete anonymity of the respondents this letter is being sent to all of the original recipients. If your agency has already responded, your answers have been tallied and are greatly appreciated.

Please recall that the survey should only take about 25 minutes of your time to complete, depending on your agency's record management system. Please click the following link to be directed to the online survey: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14pvn5OKdTtCZVxlfZmSBBkyp3ltG3FriTb86tbtyM6A/viewform>

The purpose and goal of this survey is to provide information to agencies in regards to the best practices and most cost effective way to set up, implement, or maintain forensic processing. In today's society, law enforcement agencies are expected by the public to provide forensic results quickly, efficiently, and accurately. The overwhelming number of crime scene investigation shows has drawn public attention to the forensics involved in criminal cases. Many agencies struggle to find a way to implement forensic units that are both cost effective and provide the best results. By providing data from your agency in this study a comparison of the most cost effective method and the results received by different processing members will be done that may benefit your agency greatly. Your participation in this study is voluntary. If you decide to participate, your responses will be anonymous - that is, recorded without any identifying information that is linked to you. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact me at lpazarena@gmail.com. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a human subject and participant in this study, or to report research-related problems, you may call the Institutional Review Board at NU for information, at (858) 642-8384, or irb@nu.edu.

Thank you for your consideration and participation.

Sincerely,

Laura Pazarena

Graduate Student – National University

Appendix C

Respondent's ranked opinions to identifications collected by First Responders and CSIs (both civilian and sworn)

First Responders	Fingerprint ID (Q35)	DNA ID (Q 36)	Sworn CSI	Fingerprint ID (Q 37)	DNA ID (Q 38)	Civ. CSI	Fingerprint ID (Q 39)	DNA ID (Q 40)
	3	3		0	0		5	5
	3	3		3	3		4	4
	3	2		3	2		0	0
	3	4		0	0		3	4
	4	0		4	4		4	4
	2	2		1	1		3	3
	2	3		4	4		4	4
	3	3		1	1		4	4
	3	3		0	0		0	0
	2	3		4	4		4	4
	2	3		3	4		3	4
	3	4		0	0		4	5
	2	2		5	5		5	5
	3	0		4	4		4	4
	5	5		5	5		5	5
	1	1		4	4		0	0
	2	2		4	4		4	4
	2	2		0	0		4	4
	4	4		4	4		4	4
	0	0		0	0		0	0
	2	2		0	0		0	0
	3	3		3	3		3	3
	3	3		0	0		4	4

First Responders	Fingerprint ID (Q35)	DNA ID (Q 36)	Sworn CSI	Fingerprint ID (Q 37)	DNA ID (Q 38)	Civ. CSI	Fingerprint ID (Q 39)	DNA ID (Q 40)
	2	3		3	3		3	4
	4	4		1	1		1	1
	3	3		3	3		3	3
	2	2		4	4		3	4
	4	4		4	4		3	3
	4	3		4	3		5	5
	1	2		0	0		1	1
	0	0		0	0		4	4
	1	1		4	4		5	5
	1	2		1	1		4	4
	0	0		0	0		4	4

Note: N = 34, Raw data from respondent's answers to online survey.
Questions not answered or answered "N/A" = 0

Appendix D

Respondent's ranked opinions to likelihood of prosecutions based on evidence collected by First Responders and CSIs.

First Responders	Prosecutions (Q 44)	Sworn CSI	Prosecutions (Q 43)	Civ. CSI	Prosecutions (Q 43)
	3		5		5
	4		4		4
	3		3		3
	4		4		4
	4		4		4
	1		1		1
	2		4		4
	2		4		4
	3		3		3
	2		4		4
	4		5		5
	3		4		4
	4		5		5
	4		4		4
	5		5		5
	1		3		3
	3		4		4
	3		4		4
	3		4		4
	0		0		0
	2		2		2
	3		3		3
	3		4		4
	3		4		4
	5		5		5
	3		3		3
	3		4		4
	4		4		4
	2		3		3
	1		1		1
	3		4		4
	3		5		5
	3		5		5
	3		4		4

Note: N = 34, Raw data from respondent's answers to online survey.
Questions not answered or answered "N/A" = 0

Appendix E

Sworn and Civilian CSI salary, retirement, and overtime summary from results.

Sworn CSI	Salary (Q 12)	Retirement (Q 15)	OT (Q 18)	TOTAL	Civ. CSI	Salary (Q 13)	Retirement (Q 16)	OT (Q 19)	TOTAL
	0	0	0	0		2	1	1	4
	0	0	2	2		1	1	2	4
	0	1	2	3		0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0		2	1	2	5
	2	1	2	5		0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0		2	2	2	6
	0	0	0	0		3	1	2	6
	0	0	0	0		2	2	2	6
	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0		3	2	2	7
	0	0	0	0		3	1	2	6
	0	0	0	0		2	2	2	6
	0	0	2	2		2	0	2	4
	0	0	0	0		2	1	2	5
	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	0	1	2	3		0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0		3	2	2	7
	0	0	0	0		1	1	2	4
	3	2	2	7		0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	0	2	2	4		4	2	2	8
	0	0	0	0		2	1	2	5
	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	2	1	2	5		2	2	2	6
	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0		4	2	2	8
	5	2	2	9		5	2	2	9
	0	0	0	0		5	1	2	8
	5	2	2	9		4	2	2	8
	0	0	0	0		5	2	2	9
	0	0	0	0		5	2	2	9

Note: Sworn CSIs, N = 10, Civilian CSIs, N = 22.

Salary: \$20,000 - 29,999 = 1, \$30,000 - 39,999 = 2, \$40,000 - 49,999 = 3, \$50,000 - 59,999 = 4, \$60,000 or greater = 5

Retirement: Yes = 1, No = 2

Overtime: Straight time = 1, time and a half = 2

Questions that were not answered or answered "N/A" = 0 and left out of calculations.

Appendix F

Respondent's ranked opinions to Fingerprint and DNA identifications collected by CSIs.

Sworn CSIs	Fingerprint ID (Q 37)	DNA ID (Q 38)	Civ. CSIs	Fingerprint ID (Q 39)	DNA ID (Q 40)
	0	0		5	5
	3	3		4	4
	3	2		0	0
	0	0		3	4
	4	4		4	4
	1	1		3	3
	4	4		4	4
	1	1		4	4
	0	0		0	0
	4	4		4	4
	3	4		3	4
	0	0		4	5
	5	5		5	5
	4	4		4	4
	5	5		5	5
	4	4		0	0
	4	4		4	4
	0	0		4	4
	4	4		4	4
	0	0		0	0
	0	0		0	0
	3	3		3	3
	0	0		4	4
	3	3		3	4
	1	1		1	1
	3	3		3	3
	4	4		3	4
	4	4		3	3
	4	3		5	5
	0	0		1	1
	0	0		4	4
	4	4		5	5
	1	1		4	4
	0	0		4	4

Note: N = 34, Raw data from respondent's answers to online survey.
Questions not answered or answered "N/A" = 0