

“In A Few Words”

A message from the Managing Editor

Welcome to another edition of the Investigative Sciences Journal. In this edition, you will read two very interesting topics: a report on Cognitive Bias as it pertains to Use of Force Investigations and a Technical Report with lessons learned on how to properly extract data from the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and the Supplemental Homicide Reports (SHR) for evaluation and analysis.

In the first piece on Cognitive Bias and Use of Force Investigations, David Blake’s research delves into the influence of negative media, social reactions, and politics in biasing police force responses investigations. It uses a platform that discusses the types of investigatory biases to include those created by a lack of understanding human performance science. As a means to ensure objectivity, Blake recommends an evidence based approach to de-biasing the investigations.

During the course of working with Sara Martin on a Cold Case research project, it was necessary to extract, evaluate and analyze data from both the Uniform Crime Reports and the Supplemental Homicide Reports. As noted by Sara, this was a daunting task, especially for someone who had previously never experienced the process of extracting data from these sources. As a result, it was felt that the lessons learned from this endeavor might be helpful to others who are making their first attempt at extracting UCR and SHR data.

I hope you enjoy the read and please keep the Investigative Sciences Journal in mind for future articles, research projects, case studies or technical notes that will help others do a better job. Please send all requests for information to jmadcock@jma-forensics.com.

Thank you,

James M. Adcock

James M. Adcock, PhD, Managing Editor.

