



Crime Analysts: Supporting Sexual Assault Investigations

SAKI/DANY sites and beyond

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Presenter Info

- Crime Analysis SME for SAKI TTA Team
- ViCAP, San Diego PD Sex Crimes
- IACA board, publications committee, certification commission, *Exploring Crime Analysis* ed.
- EVAWI committee member/board advisor

Agenda

- What is crime analysis?
- What does crime analysis look like in terms of SA investigations?
- Examples
- Where to begin
- How to maintain

What do crime analysts do?

- Create statistical reports for various audiences, internal and otherwise (administrative analysis)
- Develop tactics to interrupt and prevent future crimes (tactical analysis)
- Identify long-term solutions for police and community problems (strategic/operational analysis)
- Serve as central hub for information collection and dissemination
- Optimize patrol and investigative focus

Crime Analysis and SAKI/DANY/etc.

Applying these job functions to investigations

Cuyahoga County SAK Pilot Project

Report on Serial and One-Time Sexual Offenders

Key findings:

- The overwhelming majority of both serial and one-time sexual offenders had felony-level criminal histories
- Serial sexual offenders had more extensive and violent criminal histories compared to one-time sexual offenders
- Serial sexual offenders more frequently sexually assaulted in open areas (i.e., in a vehicle, outdoors)
- Sexual assaults committed by serial sexual offenders more frequently involved:
 - Kidnapping the victims
 - Verbally and physically threatening the victims
 - Using or threatening with weapons
- For the 30 serial offenders, 50% only assaulted strangers, **33.3% assaulted strangers and non-strangers** (“relationship crossover” offenders), the remaining offenders, 16.7%, only assaulted non-strangers

Cuyahoga County SAK Pilot Project

Our findings also suggest that it is very likely that a sexual offender has either previously sexually assaulted or will offend again in the future. Investigating each sexual assault as possibly being perpetrated by a serial offender has the potential to reduce the number of sexual assaults if the focus of the investigation is more on the offender than on a single incident. Serial offenders have traditionally been investigated according to the consistency of the assault or the MO (e.g., who they assault, where they assault, how they assault). For example, our findings seem to suggest that MOs (while definitely important to track for investigative purposes, especially when DNA is present) are not a consistently reliable link across assaults and thus a missed opportunity to solve unsolved sexual assaults and an opportunity to prevent future offending.

Thus, if an offender comes to the attention of law enforcement for, say, an assault that occurred near a particular bus station, they are not necessarily just investigating an isolated incident or even just other assaults near a particular bus station. Instead, there appears to be merit in reexamining each previously reported assault (including but not limited to sexual assaults) allegedly perpetrated by the offender, whether or not it fits the typical MO. *In other words, fully examining sexual offenders when they come to the attention of law enforcement is likely one of the most important ways to solve unsolved sexual assaults and reduce the number of future offenses.*

Information collection and dissemination

- Create and maintain Sex Crimes database
- Develop offender work-ups and timelines for internal and external dissemination
- Work with local and state crime laboratories on tracking & case connectivity
- Create protocols for SAKI hits, to expedite investigation and prosecution
- ViCAP/SAMS/HITS entries and queries

Optimize Focus in Investigations & Patrol

- Create searches and alerts based on previous cases/patterns
- Locate principals using public records and other databases
- Schedule automated (vs manual) searches and reports
- Identify additional victims



Offender Work-Up

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

POI/Offender Bio Sheet

John Smith, DOB 5/1/1990

AKA: Jimmy, John Smith Jones, Big J

Desc: 5'10", 185-210, Bro/Blu

S/M/T: Lakers logo, right arm; scar, forehead

Current address: 2345 Sunshine Ave, Apt D, Alexandria, VA 22201

Prior/associated address(es):

- 987 Monday Rd, Fairfax (last associated Dec 2014)
- 25 Coffee Dr, Apt 147, Arlington (owned by relative)
- 52888 Mississippi Wy, Alexandria (2 relatives here)

Phone(s): 703-555-1212 (Verizon Wireless)

Vehicle(s): 2009 White Ford Bronco

Workplace: Chuck's Auto Body (unknown dates)

DL Status: Active (VA)

Prior violent crime: N

Prior property crime: Y

Sex offender: N

Weapon Violations: Y

Bankruptcies: N

Liens/Judgments: N

Active Warrant: Y

Military: Y

Other jurisdictions contacted:

- Fairfax PD, VA (May 2015)
- DC Metro PD, DC (Aug 2012)



Offender Timeline - example

From Date	To Date	Type	Address	City	State	Notes	Source
Apr 1989	Dec 1990	Military	3181 HHC INF	Fort Drum	NY	Military address	Public Records
Aug 1989		Residence	313 Pueblo Way	Vallejo	CA	House	Public Records
Jan 1991		Event	Pinto Dr	Rohnert Park	CA	Case# 88888 - DNA Match	Rohnert Park PD
Apr 1991	Sep 1993	Residence	592 Carolina St	Vallejo	CA	Lived with 2 roommates	Public Records
Dec 1991		Event	Charles St	Sonoma	CA	Case# 99999	Sonoma PD
Feb 1992		Event	Alberta Ct	Vallejo	CA	Case# 77777 - DNA Match	Vallejo PD
1993	1994	Military	HQ Coy 3rd Div. 81th	Watertown	NY	Military Address	Public Records
Aug 1994	Sep 1996	Residence	593 I St, Apt 6	Davis	CA	Phone (530) 555-1212	Public Records
Jul 1996	Oct 2015	Residence	1891 Sycamore Ln	Davis	CA	Phone (530) 555-3434	Public Records
Jan 1997		Event	Avalon St	Davis	CA	Case - DNA Match	Davis PD
Jul 1997		Event	West Saguro Ave	Chico	CA	Case - DNA Match	Chico PD
Sep 1997	Sep 1998	Residence	592 Carolina St, Apt A	Vallejo	CA	Apartment, 1 roommate	Public Records
Apr 2000	Aug 2007	Residence	1293 El Paso Ave, Apt 3	Davis	CA	Apartment, no roommates, (530) 555-1234	Public Records
Jun 2000		Event	Amaretto Ave	Davis	CA	Case - DNA Match	Public Records
Mar 2002		Financial	1293 El Paso Ave, Apt 3	Vallejo	CA	State tax lien for \$3046 (released)	Public Records
Apr 2006		Victim	6951 Caddington Way	Sacramento	CA	Victim of 459 PC BURG VEHICLE; vehicle was white 4dr 2003 Buick Regal, CA plate 4HHH765 Property Taken: prescription sunglasses, iPod, Canon digital camera	N-DEX
May 2013	Oct 2014	Work	165 Hello Blvd	Ft Lauderdale	FL	Employed by Sam's Roofing	Public records; Relative Bob Jones
Jun 2013		Traffic		Del Ray Beach	FL	Pulled over for broken tail light, Inc# 91919191	Del Ray PD
Nov 2013		Arrest	1991 Lexis Ave	Orlando	FL	Arrested for burglary, Case# 444666	Orlando PD

Example: SAKI hits, multiple cases, unknown offender

- Create series sheet with details of offenses, victims, offender descriptors, etc.
- Search agency/regional RMS & CAD for additional cases and potential persons of interest
- Enter cases into ViCAP and search for additional cases
- Track info from crime laboratory on additional case connectivity
- Create automated searches for additional related cases and subjects who match offender description



Example: SAKI hit, single case with known offender

- Create comprehensive offender work-up with photos and a timeline, including when the offense occurred, residential info, incarceration dates, etc.
- Search for additional non-DNA cases that could be linked to the offender
- Entry of offender details into agency Sex Crimes database, ViCAP/SAMS/HITS
- Create bulletin to be sent to agencies where the offender traveled or resided
- Locate victim or their relatives, locate offender relatives



Where to begin?

Use light-duty or civilian personnel as needed; what matters is the skill set, not the job title

Lay the foundation for a centralized database

Rely on regional resources, analyst groups and fellow grantee sites

Ensure open and organized communication with local/state crime laboratories



Maintenance

Ensure continuity of operations,
regardless of personnel changes

Allow for training and networking

Participate in regional data sharing

Partner with local universities on
research



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