National Investigators Survey

Sex: M  F  (circle one)

Age: _________

State of residence: _________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

1. How long have you been employed in law enforcement?

__________ years, __________ months

2. With what type of law enforcement agency are you employed?

_____ Local (City, town, or county)

_____ State (police or highway patrol)

_____ Federal (F.B.I., U.S. Secret Service, etc.)

_____ Other (please specify)

3. Over the course of your career, about how many interviews and interrogations of suspects have you conducted, alone or with other investigators? Please estimate as best you can.

____________

4. Considering all the interviews and interrogations in which you have been involved, approximately (please estimate as best you can) what percentage of all suspects:

  Gave a partial admission  __________

  Gave a full confession  __________

  Did not admit or confess anything  __________

                      100 %
5. Considering all the interviews and interrogations in which you have been involved, approximately what percentage of suspects who were guilty:

- Gave a partial admission
- Gave a full confession
- Did not admit or confess anything

100 %

6. Considering all the interviews and interrogations in which you have been involved, approximately what percentage of suspects who turned out to be innocent:

- Gave a partial admission
- Gave a full confession
- Did not admit or confess anything

100 %

7. In your own experience, what would you say is the average number of times a suspect is interviewed or interrogated? (circle one)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 or more

8. In your own experience, what would you say is the average length of an interrogation session?

__________ (hours)

9. What is the longest interrogation session you were ever involved in?

__________ (hours)
10. As best you can, try to estimate the percentage of suspect interrogations you were involved in that took place within each of the following time intervals:

8 am to noon _____
noon to 4 pm _____
4 pm to 8 pm _____
8 pm to 12 am _____
12 am to 4 am _____
4 am to 6 am _____

100%

11. How skilled are you at knowing if someone who denies guilt during an interview is telling the truth or lying? About how often does your impression turn out to be right?

__________ % correct

__________ % incorrect

100%

12. Have you ever received special training (seminars, workshops, etc.) on how to conduct interviews and interrogations?

_____ No

_____ Yes (please describe ________________________________)

13. Some jurisdictions require that police-suspect interrogations be recorded. Is this true of your agency?

_____ Yes

_____ No
If YES, what is the nature of this requirement?

_____ Videotape recording is required
_____ Audiotape recording is required
_____ Written (stenographic) recording is required

14. Considering all interrogations in which you have been involved, please estimate the percentage in which the following was true:

_____ The session was videotaped
_____ The session was audiotaped
_____ A written record was kept by a stenographer
_____ The session was not recorded in any way

15. In your opinion, should interviews and interrogations be recorded in some way?

_____ Yes
_____ No

If YES, how? (check one)

_____ Videotape recording
_____ Audiotape recording
_____ Written transcript only

If YES, why? ____________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
If NO, why not? ______________________________
_____________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

16. How do you most often inform suspects—and get a waiver—of their Miranda rights? (please check one)

_____ orally, _____ in writing, _____ on audiotape, _____ on videotape

17. In your own experience, how do people in general react to the *Miranda* warnings you give them? Please estimate as best you can.

_____ % waive their rights and submit to a complete interrogation

_____ % initially waive but invoke their rights later at some point

_____ % refuse to waive their rights from start to finish

100%

18. Based on your own experience, estimate the percentage of guilty suspects who waive or refuse to waive their *Miranda* rights:

_____ % waive their rights and submit to a complete interrogation

_____ % initially waive but invoke their rights later at some point

_____ % refuse to waive their rights from start to finish

100%
19. Based on your own experience, try to estimate the percentage of innocent suspects who waive or refuse to waive their Miranda rights:

_____% waive their rights and submit to a complete interrogation

_____% initially waive but invoke their rights later at some point

_____% refuse to waive their rights from start to finish

100%

20. In your own experience, please estimate the number of times you saw an innocent person confess (to investigators, friends, or others) to a crime he/she probably did not commit.

_____________ times

21. Listed below are some different formats that investigators use in taking a confession. Please estimate the percentage of confessions you have taken in each of the following ways:

_______ Narrative statement written by the investigator and signed by the suspect

_______ Narrative statement both handwritten and signed by the suspect

_______ Narrative statement (including Q & A) audio-taped

_______ Narrative statement (including Q & A) videotaped

100%

22. Listed below are a number of interrogation techniques that are recommended and/or used in law enforcement. Please estimate how often you have used each technique in trying to get suspects to confess. For each, circle a number on a 5-point scale (1 = never, 2 = on rare occasion, 3 = sometimes, 4 = often, 5 = always).

A. Isolating the suspect from family and friends

1  2  3  4  5
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>B. Conducting the interrogation in a small, private room</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. Confronting the suspect with actual evidence of his guilt</td>
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<td>D. Identifying contradictions in the suspect’s story</td>
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<td>E. Interrupting the suspect’s denials and objections</td>
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<td>F. Physically intimidating the suspect</td>
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<td>G. Implying or pretending to have independent evidence of guilt</td>
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<td>H. Appealing to the suspect’s self-interests</td>
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<td>I. Appealing to the suspect’s religion or conscience</td>
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<td>J. Offering the suspect sympathy, moral justifications and excuses</td>
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<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td>K. Threatening the suspect with consequences for not cooperating</td>
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<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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L. Minimizing the moral seriousness of the offense

M. Establishing a rapport and gaining the suspect’s trust

N. Expressing impatience, frustration, or anger at the suspect

O. Showing the suspect photographs of the crime scene and/or victim

P. Having the suspect take a polygraph test—and telling him that he failed it

23. If there are other techniques you use and find effective, that are not described in the previous question, please describe these in the space below.

Thank you!