

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

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

- L. *Minimizing the moral seriousness of the offense*
- 1 2 3 4 5
- M. *Establishing a rapport and gaining the suspect's trust*
- 1 2 3 4 5
- N. *Expressing impatience, frustration, or anger at the suspect*
- 1 2 3 4 5
- O. *Showing the suspect photographs of the crime scene and/or victim*
- 1 2 3 4 5
- P. *Having the suspect take a polygraph test—and telling him that he failed it*
- 1 2 3 4 5

- 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!