**Outline – Conceptual Paper**

**Working Title:** TheTreatment of Incomplete Criminal Justice Data: Promoting Open Science and Replicability in Criminology

**The “Story”**

* Administrative data are often used to answer questions relating to criminology and criminal justice (e.g., Uniform Crime Reports [UCR], National Incident-based Reporting System [NIBRS], National Violent Death Reporting System [NVDRS])
* Missingness on key variables is common. For example…
* Criminologists most often deem the issue of missing data ignorable (i.e., they simply remove these cases). On rare occasion, researchers conduct some sort of imputation. This is the case even in high-quality publications in the fields’ top journals (e.g., Criminology, Justice Quarterly, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Criminology and Public Policy, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency). For example…
* Other fields (e.g., health/public health) have tested and discussed at length the “gold standard” methods for treating missing data (e.g., complete case analysis [CCA], Bayesian Improved Surname and Geocoding [BISG]). These fields have also demonstrated the conceptual and applied importance and utility of treating missing data properly. Criminology is overdue for such a discussion, particularly with recent calls for open science practices and study replication.
* While limited, there has been some discussion of missing data in criminology. For example… These discussions have not [name limitations].
* This paper is a call to criminologists to consider the issue of missing data more closely and to be more transparent in these efforts. This falls in line with the field’s recent calls for more open science practices to increase replicability and reproducibility (Chin, Pickett, Vazire, & Holcombe, 2021).
* With a focus on criminological research, in this paper we briefly review and discuss: 1) missing data mechanisms, 2) “ignorability,” 3) multiple imputation, and 4) sensitivity analysis. We then set standards by which we believe criminological researchers should operate when it comes to the treatment and reporting of incomplete data.