

Websites: jacobdkaplan.com & crimedatatool.com

GitHub: <https://github.com/jacobkap>

Email: jk7785@princeton.edu

Current Position

2021-Present Professional Specialist

School of Public and International Affairs
Criminal Justice @ SPIA
Princeton University

Education

2020 Ph.D. in Criminology

University of Pennsylvania

2016 M.S. in Criminology

University of Pennsylvania

2015 B.S. in Criminal Justice

California State University, Sacramento

Journal Articles

2024 Ba, B., Ge, H., **Kaplan, J.**, Knox, D, Komisarchik, M., LanzaLotto, G., Mariman, R., Mummolo, J., Rivera, R., & Torres, M. “**Political diversity in U.S. police agencies.**” (Accepted at *American Journal of Political Science.*)

2022 Block, K, & **Kaplan, J.** (2022). An analysis of National Hockey League playoff games and city-level crime counts. *Crime & Delinquency*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287221118879>
Selected coverage: [New York Times](#)

Block, K, & **Kaplan, J.** (2022). Testing the Cinderella effect: Measuring victim injury in child abuse cases. *Journal of Criminal Justice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2022.101987>

Beck, B, Holder, E, Novak, A, & **Kaplan, J.** (2022) “The Material of Policing: Budgets, Personnel, and the United States’ Misdemeanour Arrest Decline” *The British Journal of Criminology* <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azac005>

2021 Chalfin, A. & **Kaplan J.** (2021) “How Many Complaints Against Police Officers Can Be Abated by Incapacitating A Few "Bad Apples?" *Criminology & Public Policy* <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12542>

Chalfin, A, **Kaplan, J.**, & LaForest, M. (2021) "Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Displacement: Evidence from Chicago" *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-021-09519-4>

Chalfin, A, LaForest, M & **Kaplan, J.** (2021) “Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violent? Evidence from ‘Gang Takedowns’ in New York City” *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*
<https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22323>

Kaplan, J. & Chalfin, A. (2021) “Ambient Lighting and Perceptions of Public Safety: Evidence from a Survey Experiment” *Security Journal*.
<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-021-00296-0>

Chalfin, A, **Kaplan, J** & Cuellar, M. (2021) “Measuring Marginal Crime Concentration: A New Solution to an Old Problem” *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022427820984213>

Kaplan, J. (2021) "The (In)Effectiveness of Campus Smart Locks for Reducing Crime" *Journal of Applied Security Research*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19361610.2021.1915054>

2020 **Kaplan, J,** Ling, S & Cuellar, M. (2020). “Public Beliefs About the Accuracy and Importance of Forensic Evidence in the United States” *Science & Justice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2020.01.001>

Kaplan, J & Goh, L.S. (2020) "Harm Reduction in Family Violence: Does Marijuana Make Assaults Safer?" *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520961876>

Ling, S, **Kaplan, J** & Berryessa, C. (2020) “The Importance of Forensic Evidence on Decisions of Criminal Guilt” *Science & Justice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2020.11.004>

2019 **Kaplan, J** & Chalfin, A. (2019). More Cops, Fewer Prisoners? *Criminology & Public Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12424>

Working Papers

De-prosecution and death: A comment on Hogan (2022). With JJ Naddeo and Tom Scott.

Books

A Criminologist’s Guide to R: Crime by the Numbers. *Chapman & Hall/CRC The R Series*

This book introduces the programming language R and is meant for undergraduate or graduate students studying criminology. R is a programming language that is well-suited to the type of work frequently done in criminology - taking messy data and turning it into useful information. While R is a useful tool for many fields of study, this book focuses on the skills criminologists should know and utilizes crime data for the example data sets.

Online version available at: <https://crimebythenumbers.com/>

Print version available to purchase: <https://www.routledge.com/A-Criminologists-Guide-to-R-Crime-by-the-Numbers/Kaplan/p/book/9781032244075>

Decoding FBI Crime Data: A Practical Guide to UCR Program Data (in progress)

This book provides a guide to UCR data, including National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data, for people who want to use it for research or reporting. It covers basic details such as how many years of data are available and which variables are included, as well as goes into the reliability of the data and how to avoid common pitfalls when using the data. It explains to readers both how to use the data, and how to *use it well*.

Available at <https://ucrbook.com/>

Teaching Experience

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| 2025 | Programming Workshop , Criminal Justice @ SPIA, Data-Driven Social Science, and Survey Research Center, Princeton University
“Survey Data Analysis With R: A Three-Day Academic Workshop” |
| 2024 | Guest Lecturer , Law and Justice Studies Department, Rowan University
“Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice” (Graduate) |
| 2021-2022 | Guest Lecturer , Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University
“Advanced Research Methods” (Graduate)
“Introduction to Methods of Research” (Undergraduate) |
| 2016-2019 | Guest Lecturer , Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania.
“Pro-seminar in Criminal Justice” (Graduate)
“Research Methods and Crime Analysis (Master’s Thesis Course)” (Graduate)
“Statistics for the Social Sciences” (Undergraduate) |
| 2016 - 2019 | Teaching Assistant , Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania.
"Research Methods and Crime Analysis (Master’s Thesis Course)" (Graduate)
"Statistics for the Social Sciences" (Undergraduate) |
| 2016 | Teaching Assistant , Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania.
"Program Evaluation and Data Analysis" (Graduate) |

Other Experience

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|-------------|---|
| 2021 | Postdoctoral Fellow
University of Pennsylvania |
| 2018 - 2020 | Data Scientist , Consultant
Wrote and tested code to efficiently convert millions of pages of PDFs into a machine-readable format. Designed, implemented, and maintained a website that allows users to visualize this data at various levels of aggregation. |
| 2018 | Data Scientist , Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania.
Produced and tested code to convert voting records into a machine-readable data and built a prototype website to display this data. |
| 2017 - 2018 | Research Scientist , National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD). |

Wrote the Justice Data Learning Guide: No. 2, "[Using the Law Enforcement Agency Identifiers Crosswalk \(LEAIC\)](#)." This guide explains how to use the LEAIC dataset through an example incorporating both National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data and US Census data. This guide includes code to use in both R and SPSS.

2016 **Research Assistant**, Dr. Emily Owens, University of Pennsylvania.
Collected, cleaned, and prepared US Census data for analysis and visualization.

Student Advising

2019-2020 Alec Bardey. Senior Honors Criminology Thesis (co-winner, J. Francis Finnegan Award). *The Effect of Localized LED Streetlight Replacements on Adjacent Crime: Evidence from Philadelphia*

Presentations

"The Perils and Promises of FBI Data"
2023 National Institute of Statistical Sciences, Ingram Olkin Forum on Statistics and Policing

"Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Displacement: Evidence from Chicago"
2020 Panel Paper, American Society of Criminology (Canceled due to COVID-19)

"Making UCR Data Accessible to Researchers"
2019 Panel Paper, American Society of Criminology

"More Cops, Fewer Prisoners?"
2019 Panel Paper, Western Society of Criminology
2018 Panel Paper, Associations for Public Policy Analysis & Management

"The Effect of Card Reader Locks on Theft on a University Campus"
2018 Poster, Associations for Public Policy Analysis & Management
2017 Poster, American Society of Criminology

Software

[fastDummies](#): R package for quickly and efficiently making binary columns out of categorical columns. It also fills in "dummy rows" for data sets missing rows of data based on all combinations of categorical and date columns. Downloads: 2.1 million.

[caesar](#): R package to encrypt and decrypt strings using a simple Caesar cipher or a pseudorandom number generation. Downloads: 772 thousand.

[asciiSetupReader](#): R package for reading fixed-width ASCII files that have an .sps or .sas setup file. It also allows users to quickly generate setup files. Downloads: 51 thousand.

[predictrace](#): R package to predict the race of a surname using U.S. Census data which says how many people of each race has a certain surname. Downloads: 24

[crimeutils](#):

thousand.

R package to provide a set of helper functions to make common data tasks in criminology research - clean, explore, analyze, visualize – a bit easier.
Downloads: 18 thousand.

Service

Journal Reviewer: *Criminology and Public Policy*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, *Homicide Studies*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

Data collected, cleaned, and made publicly available:

[Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 1992-2018](#)

[Apparent Per Capita Alcohol Consumption: National, State, and Regional Trends 1977-2018](#)

[California Jail Profile Survey, 1995-2020](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Prisons in the United States, April – June 2020](#)

[U.S. Customs and Border Protection Statistics and Summaries](#)

[Uniform Crime Reporting \(UCR\) Program Data: Summary Reporting System \(SRS\)](#)

[Uniform Crime Reporting \(UCR\) Program Data: National Incident-Based Reporting System \(NIBRS\)](#)

[United States Governors, 1775-2020](#)