

## Jacob Kaplan

(Current as of February 2022)

---

Email: jkkaplan6@gmail.com  
Website: [jacobdkaplan.com](http://jacobdkaplan.com)  
GitHub: <https://github.com/jacobkap>

### Current Position

2021-Present	Professional Specialist	Princeton School of Public and International Affairs Princeton University
2021-Present	Chief Data Scientist	Research on Policing Reform and Accountability

### Prior Position

2020-2021	Postdoctoral Fellow	University of Pennsylvania
-----------	---------------------	----------------------------

### Education

2020	Ph.D. in Criminology University of Pennsylvania Dissertation: <i>The Effect of Lighting and Building Security on Crime</i>
2016	M.S. in Criminology University of Pennsylvania Thesis: <i>Assessing the Effect of Hiring Standards on Minority Recruitment in Police</i>
2015	B.S. in Criminal Justice California State University, Sacramento

### Journal Articles

2022	Beck, B, Holder, E, Novak, A, & <b>Kaplan, J.</b> (in press) "The Material of Policing: Budgets, Personnel, and the United States' Misdemeanour Arrest Decline"
2021	Chalfin, A. & <b>Kaplan J.</b> (2021) "How Many Complaints Against Police Officers Can Be Abated by Incapacitating A Few "Bad Apples?" <i>Criminology &amp; Public Policy</i> <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12542">https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12542</a>  Chalfin, A, <b>Kaplan, J.</b> & LaForest, M. (2021) "Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Displacement: Evidence from Chicago" <i>Journal of Quantitative Criminology</i> <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-021-09519-4">https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-021-09519-4</a>  Chalfin, A, LaForest, M & <b>Kaplan, J.</b> (2021) "Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violent? Evidence from 'Gang Takedowns' in New York City" <i>Journal of Policy Analysis &amp; Management</i>

<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>

## Books

### Crime by the Numbers

This book introduces the programming language R and is meant for undergrads 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 uses crime data for the example data sets.

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

### Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: A Practitioner's Guide

This book provides a guide to UCR 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 tries to explain to readers both how to use the data, and how to *use it well*.

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

### **National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data: A Practitioner's Guide**

This book provides a guide to 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 tries to explain to readers both how to use the data, and how to *use it well*.

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

## Teaching Experience

- 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)
- 2014 - 2015 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Biology, California State University, Sacramento.  
"Biology: A Human Perspective" (Undergraduate)

## Other Experience

- 2018 - 2020 **Data Scientist**, Private 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

“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. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/fastDummies/>

*caesar*: R package to encrypt and decrypt strings using a simple Caesar cipher or a pseudorandom number generation. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/caesar/>

*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. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/asciiSetupReader/>

*meditations*: R package that returns a random quote from Marcus Aurelius from his book Meditations. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/meditations/>

*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. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/predictrace/>

*crimeutils*: R package to provide a set of helper functions to make common data tasks in criminology research - clean, explore, analyze, visualize – a bit easier. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/crimeutils/>

## List of data collected, cleaned, and made publicly available

Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll (ASPEP) 1992-2016

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E101399V6>

Annual Survey of State Government Finances 1992-2018

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E101880V4>  
Apparent Per Capita Alcohol Consumption: National, State, and Regional Trends 1977-2018  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E105583V5>  
California Department of Corrections Data  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E108602V2>  
California Jail Profile Survey 1995-2020  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E104560V7>  
Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Prisons in the United States, April – June 2020  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E119901V1>  
Texas Commission on Jail Standards 1992-2017  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E104643V1>  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection Statistics and Summaries  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E109522V5>  
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data  
1991-2019  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V4>  
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Arrests by  
Age, Sex, and Race 1974-2020  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102263V14>  
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Arson  
1979-2020  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E103540V10>  
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Human  
Trafficking 2013-2019  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E117974V3>  
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Law  
Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) 1960-2019  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102180V11>  
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Offenses  
Known and Clearances by Arrest 1960-2020  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E100707V17>  
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Property  
Stolen and Recovered (Supplement to Return A) 1960-2020  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E105403V8>  
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data:  
Supplementary Homicide Reports 1976-2020  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E100699V11>  
United States Governors 1775-2020  
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102000V3>