Jacob Kaplan

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Current Position

2020-present   Postdoctoral Fellow   University of Pennsylvania

Other Affiliations

2020-present   Research Fellow   Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

Education

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

Publications

- 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**, 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" https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2020.11.004

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

- **Kaplan, J**. "The (In)Effectiveness of Campus Smart Locks for Reducing Crime" *Conditionally Accepted at the Journal of Applied Security Research*

Manuscripts Under Review

- **Kaplan, J**. "The Effect of Moonlight on Outdoor Nighttime Crime" Revise & Resubmit, *Criminal Justice Review*

- Chalfin, A, **Kaplan, J**, & LaForest, M. "Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Displacement: Evidence from Chicago" Revise & Resubmit, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*

- Beck, B, Holder, E, Novak, A, & **Kaplan, J**. "The decline in misdemeanor arrests: Analyzing the social, spatial and organizational contexts of low-level enforcement's reduction, 1990-2018"

- Chalfin, A, LaForest, M, & **Kaplan, J**. "Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violent? Evidence from 'Gang Takedowns' in New York City" Revise & Resubmit, *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*

- Block, K, Ling, S, & **Kaplan, J**. "Age, Criminal Punishment, and Accountability: What the Public Recommends for Guilty Defendants"

- **Kaplan, J.** & Chalfin, A. "Ambient Lighting and Perceptions of Public Safety: Evidence from a Survey Experiment" Revise & Resubmit, *Security Journal*

- Chalfin, A. & **Kaplan J**. "How Many Complaints Against Police Officers Can Be Abated by Incapacitating A Few "Bad Apples?" Revise & Resubmit, *Criminology & Public Policy*

- **Kaplan, J.** "Outdoor Lighting and Arrests: A Natural Experiment Using Daylight Savings Time"

Work in Progress

- **Kaplan, J.** & Block, K. "Are Animal Abusers Like Other Violent Offenders?"

- **Kaplan, J**. "Do Police Departments Look Like Their Community? An Assessment Controlling for Eligibility to Become an Officer"

- **Kaplan, J.** & Block, K. "How Victim-Offender Relationship and Respondent Sex Affects

Public Perceptions of Child Physical Abuse"

- **Kaplan, J,** Arruda de Amaral, M, Dalila, O, Loeffler C, & Ridgeway, G. "The Life of a Gun Case: Evidence from Philadelphia"

Columns and Interviews

- [Health officials failed to safeguard trust in Pa.'s coronavirus data, sowing confusion.](#) June 17, 2020. Spotlight PA.
- [Incarceration and the COVID-19 Crisis](#) (With Jennifer Doleac and Anna Harvey). May 20, 2020. Econofact.
- [Data Is Key To Stopping COVID-19 Spread in Prisons](#) (with Oren Gur and Aaron Littman). May 3, 2020. Law360.

Teaching Experience

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/

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

"Moonlight and Crime: A Quasi-Experimental Approach"
2018   Roundtable, American Society of Criminology

"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

Manuscript Reviewer

Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency
Journal of Criminal Justice
Security Journal

Awards

2016-2020	Benjamin Franklin Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2019	Dean's Travel Subvention, University of Pennsylvania

| 2019 | GAPSA Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania |
| 2019 | SASGOV Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania |

Software
(342k total downloads)

fastDummies:	R package for quickly and efficiently making binary columns out
(275k downloads)	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
(25k downloads)	pseudorandom number generation. Available at https://jacobkap.github.io/caesar/
asciiSetupReader:	R package for reading fixed-width ASCII files that have an
(23k downloads)	.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
(9k downloads)	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
(7k downloads)	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
(2k downloads)	in criminology research - clean, explore, analyze, visualize – a bit easier. Available at https://jacobkap.github.io/crimeutils/
phillydaodata:	R package to download the publicly available data that the Philadelphia
(560 downloads)	District Attorney's Office has released. Available at https://jacobkap.github.io/phillydaodata/

List of data collected, cleaned, and made publicly available
(5,243 total downloads)

Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll (ASPEP) 1992-2016
(158 downloads)	Available at http://doi.org/10.3886/E101399V5
Annual Survey of State Government Finances 1992-2018
(216 downloads)	Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E101880V3
Apparent Per Capita Alcohol Consumption: National, State, and Regional Trends 1977-2018
(312 downloads)	Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E105583V4
California Department of Corrections Data
(29 downloads)	Available at http://doi.org/10.3886/E108602V1
California Jail Profile Survey 1995-2020
(176 downloads)	Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E104560V6
Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Prisons in the United States, April – June 2020
(192 downloads)	Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E119901V1
Texas Commission on Jail Standards 1992-2017
(31 downloads)	Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E104643V1
U.S. Customs and Border Protection Statistics and Summaries
(108 downloads)	Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E109522V4

Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data, 1991-2018

(159 downloads)   Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E118281V1

Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Arrests by Age, Sex, and Race 1974-2018

(761 downloads)   Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E102263V10

Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Arson 1979-2019

(70 downloads)   Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E103540V8

Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Hate Crime Data 1992-2018

(377 downloads)   Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E103500V6

Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Human Trafficking 2013-2019

(98 downloads)   Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E117974V2

Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) 1960-2019

(294 downloads)   Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E102180V9

Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Offenses Known and Clearances by Arrest 1960-2019

(1,230 downloads)   Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E100707V15

Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Property Stolen and Recovered (Supplement to Return A) 1960-2019

(88 downloads)   Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E105403V5

Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Supplementary Homicide Reports 1976-2019

(707 downloads)   Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E100699V9

United States Governors 1775-2020

(237 downloads)   Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/E102000V2