Under Investigation Social Media Use by Law Enforcement











Missing Persons Report

4 out of 5 officers use social media for investigative purposes. Other uses include community outreach, soliciting crime tips, notifying the public and recruitment.

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

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What Investigative Activities Are Done Via Social Media?

When challenged, social media as evidence for search warrants holds up in court 87% of the time

100% **85%** 70% 55%

40% 25%

10%

0% Use info from

70% 55% 40% Identify associates affiliated (with persons of interest

85%

Identify location of criminal activity

Gather photos or statements to corroborate evidence

Identify Identify persons criminal activity interest

Identify/ monitor persons of interest's whereabouts

Soliciting **Anticipating** tips on crimes

Understanding crimes that criminal may be networks occurring

social media as probable cause for search

warrants

Which Social Media Sites Are Used for Investigations at Least Monthly?





knowledge to use: 33% Jon't have enough

Don't believe the till. 20/0

Stop Right There

gency policy: 12%

Why isn't social media used in investigations? **Training Day**

How do law enforcement professionals learn to use social media?

> 80% of law enforcement professionals are self-taught when it comes to using social media for investigations

Self-trained by getting on and navigating social media sites

> **Brought knowledge from** personal use

Working with a colleague who uses social media

> With information from the general media or online

At a seminar or conference that was dedicated to social media

> **Training given** at agency

Be on the Lookout:

83% of current users expect to use social media more over the next year

74% of non-users intend to start using social media over the next year

2/3 believe social media helps solve crimes more quickly

55 50 45 15 True Crime Stories

Social media is a valuable tool

because you are able to see the activities of a target in his comfortable stage. Targets brag and post illicit valuable information in reference to travel, hobbies, places visited, functions, appointments, circle of friends, family members,

Who Is Using Social Media for Investigative Purposes?



Federal: 81%



State: 71%



Local: 82%

77%



Rank & File: 79%



Supervisory: 85%



83%

Agencies serving smaller populations and with fewer sworn personnel use social media more often



86% usage in cities under 50K





cities over 100K

A terroristic threat involving high school students was discovered. An investigation that included Facebook revealed a student intent on harming others. The student was in the process of acquiring weapons. It's my belief we avoided a Columbine type of scenario.

relationships, actions, etc.



Results are based on an online survey conducted in partnership with the PoliceOne.com community. A total of 1,221 law enforcement professionals participated. June 2012. To read more, visit www.lexisnexis.com/investigations.

