



E46 The Effect of Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) on Forensic DNA Database Recognition: A Public Survey of South Koreans

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the impact of forensic television programs such as *CSI* on overall forensic awareness, including forensic investigation and the DNA database, through a survey of South Koreans.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by showing how people are affected by media, including forensic science television programs, and how people's perceptions change. A survey of South Koreans' attitudes affected by media demonstrates a change in opinion regarding forensic science overall, especially the criminal DNA database.

Data was collected as a part of the Korean Academic Multimode Open Survey for Social Sciences (KAMOS), which provides scientific survey data for social scientists. KAMOS is a member of the international Open Probability-Based Panel Alliance (OPPA). KAMOS is a representative survey of Korean adults. The panel was created using stratified cluster random sampling of home addresses. Of 2,000 randomly selected panel members, 1,000 respondents participated in this survey.^{1,2}

The survey on which we asked our questions also saw a rise in the popularity of crime procedural dramas in Korea, such as *CSI* and *Law and Order*. These dramas portray forensic teams and detectives in a positive light and demonstrate how having a database of information available in criminal situations and persons may help solve crimes. Of the respondents, 57.8% (more than 50% of all ages, except 60 or older) responded that they have seen forensic-related media contents. In addition, a majority of these respondents had higher education than a high school diploma. It is believed that there are barriers, such as linguistic or scientific education, in encountering foreign media or in understanding forensic science and scientific facts. The 578 people who had seen forensic dramas or movies were asked how their perception of forensic investigation methods changed after watching the video; 70.5% of respondents thought they were more positive than before. Only 4.7% of respondents thought they were more negative than before.

Between similar surveys conducted in 2003 and this survey, there have been many series about crime scene investigation in Korea. This study may provide a comparative analysis of the results of two surveys over time and the opinions of those exposed to these media have changed. We may also be seeing some version of the "CSI Effect" in Korea as well; that is, there may have been an increase in positive attitudes toward the use of a database thanks partially to these programs. While a survey from the United States found that watching crime shows such as *CSI* was positively correlated with a belief in the reliability of DNA testing, it was not related to support of a DNA bank. Nonetheless, the "CSI Effect" may be slightly different in Korea and may provide a partial explanation for the increase in positive attitudes toward a criminal DNA database.

This survey will help enlighten policymakers about what to consider when linking forensic science and legal systems. Public opinion is also an important consideration when enacting or amending the law, and it is necessary to prevent public opinion from being distorted by media exposure.

Reference(s):

1. Baskin D.R., Sommers I.B. Crime-Show-Viewing Habits and Public Attitudes Toward Forensic Evidence: The "CSI Effect" Revisited. *Justice System Journal* 2010;31(1):97-113.
2. Weaver R., Salmonson Y., Koch J., and Porter G. The CSI Effect at University: Forensic Science Students Television Viewing and Perceptions of Ethical Issues. *Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences*. No. 44, 4 (2012): 381-391.

"CSI Effect", Public Survey, Forensic Science