

According to Steve Van Aperen, Polygraph tests are currently used in more than 50 countries in multiple fields, including the FBI, FDA, and many other investigative bodies. Although polygraph tests are not a substitute for standard investigative techniques, there have been extensive technical and computerized advances in polygraph technology in the past decade.

In fact, polygraph results are now considered admissible evidence in all Federal Circuit Courts in the USA, as well as 36 US states on a stipulated basis. Legal author and expert on the common law, Wigmore, stated three probative uses of the polygraph with respect to a criminal investigation:

- The observer may use it as a clue to obtaining external data which can otherwise be used in evidence;
- The disclosure of the lie may impress the subject with the apparent futility of trying to conceal the facts, and may thus lead to a voluntary confession before trial; and
- The recorded curves may reveal a general emotional consciousness of guilt and can serve to guide police investigators in their hypotheses.

Since 1980, 10 separate studies showed the accuracy rate for truthful subjects was 97% and 98% for deceptive subjects. Although skeptics express concern that results are not 100% accurate, invalid eyewitness and psychiatric findings can be, and often are, legally and judiciously recognized as admissible evidence.

A study by Dr. Horvath compared the polygraph with handwriting analysis, eyewitness identification, and fingerprints. A group of 80 students was divided into 20 groups of four persons. A mock crime was then committed by one student in each group and the investigative means were employed by experts in each field to try to correctly identify the offender in each group. The results were as follows:

IDENTIFICATION CORRECT INCORRECT INCONCLUSIVE

POLYGRAPH	18	1	1
HANDWRITING	17	1	2
EYEWITNESS	7	4	9
FINGERPRINTS	4	0	16

To learn more about polygraph testing and how it may benefit your case, contact Fortaris Capital Advisors.