



A Novel Approach to Addressing Changes of Opinions in Latent Prints

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Change of Opinion



- Is not an error
- Does not necessitate conflict resolution
- Is to be expected when different or additional information is used to reach the conclusion/opinion



New Information



- Aerial perspective
 - Illusion of depth created by less detail added to distant objects and modifying colors (use of blue)
- Horizon line level
 - The eyes are at the center of the viewer's attention
- *Sfumato technique*
 - Not a smile, but a shadow of her cheeks



Verification Procedures



- All comparison conclusions verified
 - Identification
 - Inconclusive
 - Exclusion
- “No value” decisions reviewed
- www.dfs.virginia.gov

Verification Procedures



- Open vs. Blind
- Cases randomly selected for blind verification

Create Folder - Create Case

Basic Information

Name:

Title:

Description:

Custom Information

Container Inventory -add item-

Case Status [Select if ready for review / verification](#)

Documentation Requirements



- Independent documented conclusions

Clarified / Annotated

EXAMINER: scillessen_admin
ANALYSIS DATE: 07/06/2017

CASE #: TEST CASE
LATENT #: 2P1
ANALYSIS RESULT: Value for Comparison

2P1 ID to LI test_V
Examiner: scillessen_admin

COMPARISON

Latent :2P1.cpws Known :Test.cpws

Created: 07/06/2017 Compare Date: 07/06/2017

Case #: TEST CASE ANYTOWN PD

Consultation



- Examiners have a one on one discussion when a difference in opinion occurs
- Documented in case file
- Not a Corrective Action

Data



- 104 instances
- Consensus not reached in 1 instance

Data

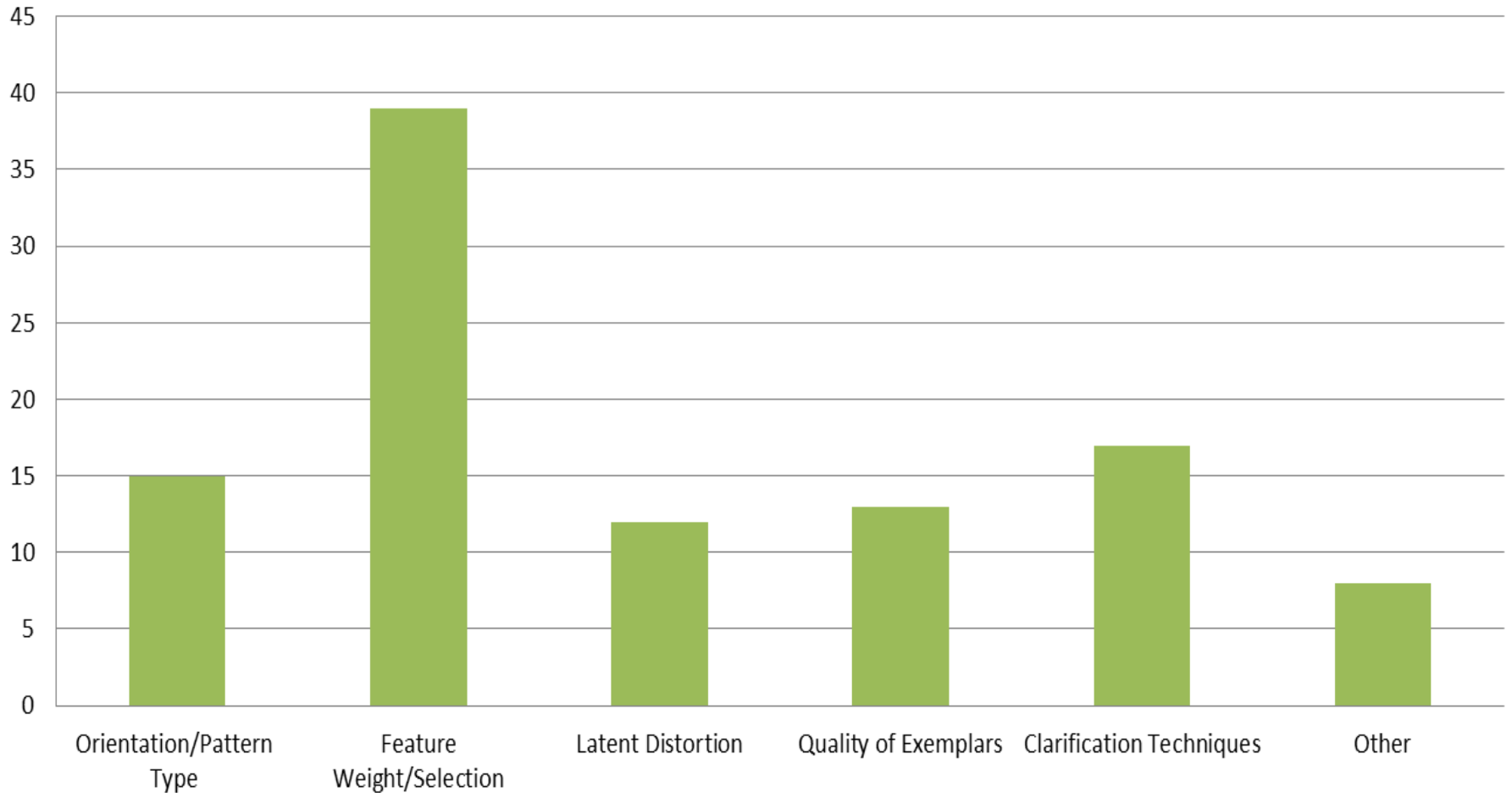


- Change of opinion occurs in open and in blind verification
 - 46 Open
 - 58 Blind
- Demonstrates confirmation and/or contextual bias might not be a factor

Data



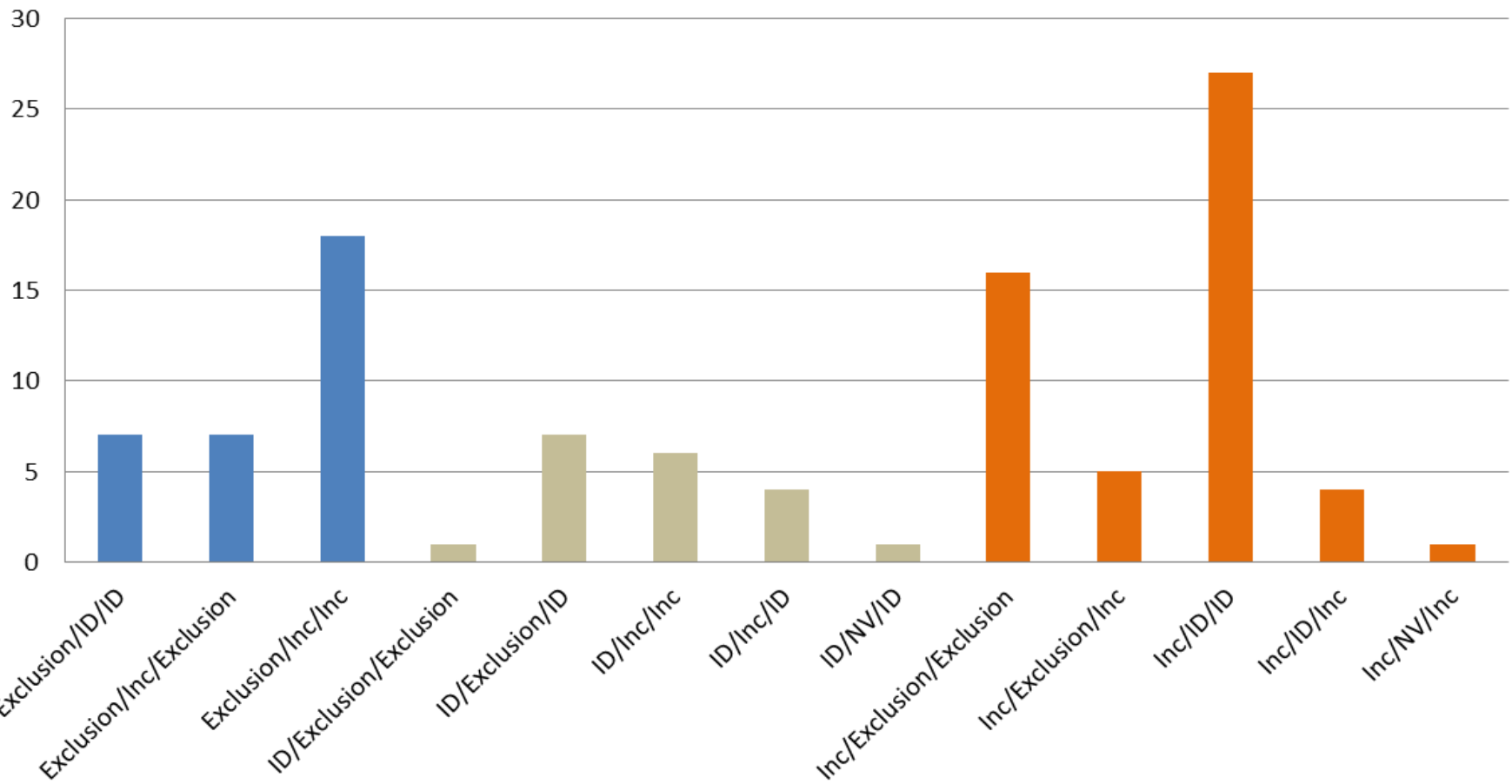
Frequency of Reason for Change of Opinion



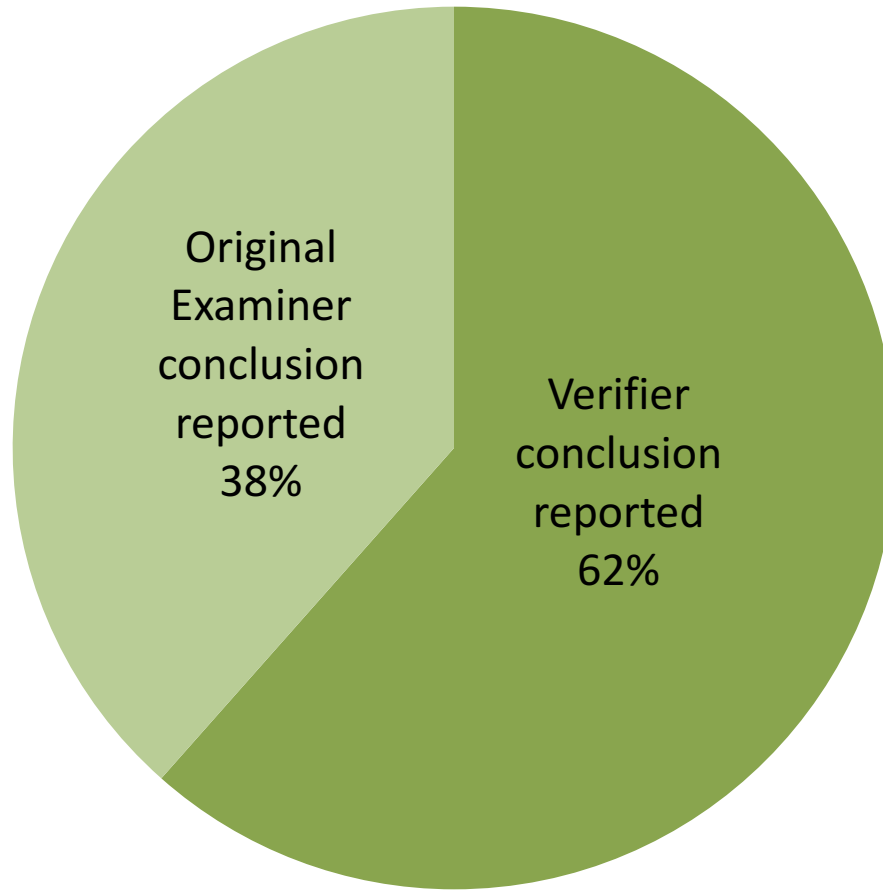
Data



**Categories of Changes
(original examiner/verifier/conclusion)**



Data



Data



- No indication that years of experience correlates to frequency of change of opinion

Training

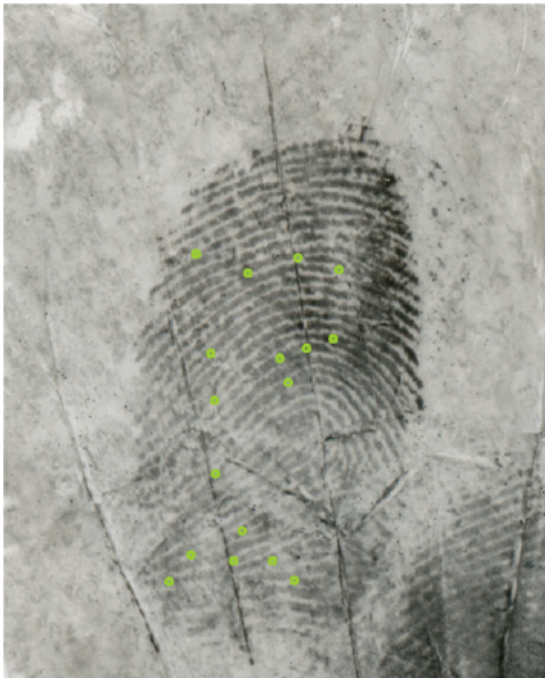


- Based on trends observed
 - Clarification techniques
 - Orientation

Culture Shift



- It is okay to change your opinion when presented with new information
- A subjective opinion that is documented



Culture Shift



- Open communication
- Removal of stigma
- Less stress

Summary



- A change of opinion is not an error
- Verification and consultation are valuable
- Documentation of the basis for the conclusion is crucial

Questions?

