
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPTool

Title: Impact of Forensic Evidence on the Criminal Justice Process

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Impact of Forensic Evidence on the Criminal Justice Process

Roles and responsibilities

The Data Management Plan should outline the rights and obligations of all parties as to their roles and responsibilities in the management and retention of research data. It must also consider changes to roles and responsibilities that will occur should a principal investigator or co-PI leave the institution.

The primary person responsible for the management of this data will be the principle investigator. The principle investigator is responsible for the monitoring the data, organizing the data, and producing reports concerning the data. The principle investigator will also be responsible for the interpretation and communication of information garnered from the data.

Data was collected from police incident and investigative reports, crime lab reports, and prosecutor case files.

Peer reviewers and an instructor will take the time to go over the data and determine any discrepancies and imperative changes.

No plan in place for if the principle investigator can no longer pursue their work.

Expected data

The Data Management Plan should describe the types of data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials to be produced in the course of the project. It should then describe the expected types of data to be retained.

The data used will be from police incident and investigation reports, crime lab reports, and prosecutor case files from criminal cases in five jurisdictions (Los Angeles County, California; Indianapolis, Indiana; Evansville, Indiana; Fort Wayne, Indiana; and South Bend, Indiana). The data contain a total of 25 variables including information relevant to the victim, suspect information, case file information, and forensic variables.

Data was downloaded from ICPSR. Prior to being uploaded to ICPSR, data was collected from official record data for the aforementioned jurisdictions. From that data, the principle investigator identified 25 out of 175 variables.

The 25 variables relate to victim information, suspect information, case file information, and forensic information. The variables used are used to determine how demographics of the victim and suspect are related to how a case is sentenced or whether it is charged. Forensic variables are brought in to determine if forensics had any effect on case outcomes.

Period of data retention

SBE is committed to timely and rapid data distribution. However, it recognizes that types of data can vary widely and that acceptable norms also vary by scientific discipline. It is strongly committed, however, to the underlying principle of timely access, and applicants should address how this will be met in their DMP statement.

Question not answered.

Data format and dissemination

The Data Management Plan should describe data formats, media, and dissemination approaches that will be used to make data and metadata available to others. Policies for public access and sharing should be described, including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements. Research centers and major partnerships with industry or other user communities must also address how data are to be shared and managed with partners, center members, and other major stakeholders.

The file formats used for this data will include an excel file with the variables, an access file for relating tables, and visualizations of the statistics of the variables.

After the creation of the tables in access, the information will be made available. The code book is an imperative aspect of the data, as it details the methodology and makes sure to ensure that ethical standards are followed and privacy is maintained. Victims are identified by victim ids that are matched with case ids. No identifying information is included.

Data storage and preservation of access

The Data Management Plan should describe physical and cyber resources and facilities that will be used for the effective preservation and storage of research data. These can include third party facilities and repositories.

Information will be stored in the principle investigator's drive. However, information will be shared with the professor and peer reviewers. Data is organized per case ID information. Each case ID is represented in the case information file and then connected to the victim information, suspect information, and forensics information.

Additional possible data management requirements

More stringent data management requirements may be specified in particular NSF solicitations or result from local policies and best practices at the PI's home institution. Additional requirements will be specified in the program solicitation and award conditions. Principal Investigators to be supported by such programs must discuss how they will meet these additional requirements in their Data Management Plans.

Name of the data will be determined upon the onset of research. It will be imperative to create naming conventions for the data that is collected in order to best search and organized the data.

The responsibilities of the principle investigator indicate that this will be one of the primary aspects of their job. They will be responsible for such updates and collection and dissemination of information directly related to the data.

