Court Workforce Racial Diversity and Racial Justice in Criminal Case Outcomes in the United States

Creator: Shiyi Luo

Affiliation: University of Washington (UW)

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Data formats and software standards

Data formats: quantitative
Software used:
1. Data collection: Excel
2. Load to database: Microsoft SQL Server Integration Services, Visual Studio
3. Data storage: SQL Server
4. Data analysis: SAS, Stata, SPSS

Data collection

Individual level variables, including the individual defendant case decisions that were obtained through the Monitoring Federal Criminal Sentencing (MFCS) data acquired from the United States Sentencing Commission, are not available as part of this collection.


Mode of Data Collection: Record abstracts

The sample is comprised of 90 of the 94 judicial districts in the federal court system. Four districts (Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and Sample: North Mariana Island) were eliminated due to insufficient data available and concern about variation in territorial governance over judicial processes.

Privacy and informed consent

ICPSR data undergo a confidentiality review and are altered when necessary to limit the risk of disclosure.

IP and copyright

The principal investigators hold intellectual property rights to the research dataset. They are Ward, Geoff, Northeastern University. College of Criminal Justice; Farrell, Amy, Northeastern University. College of Criminal Justice; Rousseau, Danielle, Northeastern University. College of Criminal Justice.

Resource Center For Minority Data (RCMD) and ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research) also hold the copyright of the dataset as the data repository organization.

This dataset is maintained and distributed by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD), the criminal justice archive within ICPSR. NACJD is primarily sponsored by three...
agencies within the U.S. Department of Justice: the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Data processing (i)

Versions: Original ICPSR Release at 2009-06-25
Extent of Processing:
ICPSR routinely creates ready-to-go data files along with setups in the major statistical software formats as well as standard codebooks to accompany the data. In addition to these procedures, ICPSR performed the following processing steps for this data collection:

- Standardized missing values.
- Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

Data processing (ii)

Frequencies displayed for the variables are not weighted.
They are purely descriptive and may not be representative of the study population.

Technical documentation

ICPSR Codebook notes:
1) Included as an appendix to the codebook is the original codebook produced by the principal investigators. ICPSR added value labels to the DISTRICT variable in the dataset based upon information contained in the original codebook. For the study’s citation and type of file for release, users should refer to the ICPSR description distributed with this data collection.
2) ICPSR recoded blanks in numeric variables to -9 and labeled them “Blank”.
3) ICPSR created the CASEID variable, which is a unique identifier.
4) ICPSR shortened the variable name, POPULATION2002ESTIMATE, to POP2002ESTIMATE due to the character limitations of some statistical output and/or software.

Contact information

NACJD may be contacted at NACJD/ICPSR, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106-1248, 800-999-0960. The URL for the NACJD Web site is: http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/