Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using dmptool

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

Data formats and software standards

Provide information regarding data formats (quantitative/qualitative/spatial) and software with which data will be collected, entered into a database, stored, analyzed and transferred. Standard commercial software or software typically acceptable to NACJD should be identified for use in the proposed data collection.

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

Describe the procedures by which you plan to collect data along with anticipated units of analysis (e.g., individuals, locations), levels of analysis and other identifiers for each data file submitted upon completion of the funded research; or a description of planned use of existing data, if applicable.

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

If the proposed research includes collection of information identifiable to private persons, include: a description of all assurances of confidentiality made to those persons; a copy of the consent form that was used; a copy of the Privacy Certificate (as submitted to and approved by the funding agency); documentation of IRB approval and the IRB-approved research protocol; any information transfer agreement that was used to transfer the data with identifiers.

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

Describe any intellectual property rights or copyrights associated with the data, data collection instruments or materials.

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)

Describe any anticipated variable creation, data transformations or scale construction that may be critical to the interpretation or analysis of the data by others.

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)

Include a plan for submission of computer programming code or software syntax providing detail on how the data will be processed, including any significant treatments of the data, such as de-identification, imputation, filtering or weighting.

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

Technical documentation

Describe the technical documentation (e.g., data dictionary or codebook) that explains how variables will be designated and labeled in the data file(s), such as the use of variable naming conventions and variable groups, missing data/value designations, variable and category/value labels, operational definitions, and citations as needed for these variables.

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

Provide contact information for the principal investigator that other researchers can use if they need more information about the study or the data.

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/