

Monitoring Federal Criminal Sentences Codebook

Study Design

This study aims to inquire any socioeconomic and racial disparities in the federal criminal justice system between 1995 and 2015. Specifically, this study utilizes a series of dataset that contains information on federal criminal cases sentenced under the Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. This series was maintained and distributed by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, which is primarily sponsored by Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Each year includes the criminal sentences from the beginning of a fiscal year to the end of the following year (e.g. FY 2015 would include sentences from October 1st to September 30 of the following year).

Sampling

The data for this study was drawn from cases that were sentenced between 1995 and 2015 and deemed constitutional. The sample of data was then selected from each year, ignoring cases that require special coding (e.g. life without parole was removed as it required it being coded as 9997).

Variable Index

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## =====
##
##    USSCIDN 'Unique sequential identification number given to cases upon
##    receipt at US Sentencing Commission'
##
## -----
##
##    Storage mode: integer
##    Measurement: interval
##
##          Min:    79702.000
##          Max:   1216450.000
##          Mean:   877195.173
##          Std.Dev.: 315014.463
##          Skewness:   -0.583
##          Kurtosis:  -1.255
##          Miss.:   102332.000
##          NAs:    102332.000
##
## =====
##
##    MONRACE
##
## -----
##
##    Storage mode: integer
##    Measurement: nominal
##
##          Values and labels      N      Percent
```

```

##
##      1  'White/Caucasian'      863075      69.3   63.9
##      2  'Black'                328187      26.4   24.3
##      3  'American Indian'      20046       1.6    1.5
##      4  'Asian/Pacific Islander' 29530       2.4    2.2
##      5  'Other'                3846        0.3    0.3
##      NA M                      105836       7.8
##
## =====
##
##      YEAR 'Year which the defendant's case was sentenced'
##
## -----
##
##      Storage mode: integer
##      Measurement: interval
##
##          Min:   1996.000
##          Max:   2008.000
##          Mean:  2004.889
##      Std.Dev.:    3.834
##      Skewness:   -0.971
##      Kurtosis:   -0.391
##          Miss.: 89576.000
##          NAs:  89576.000
##
## =====
##
##      MONSEX 'Indicates the defendant's gender'
##
## -----
##
##      Storage mode: integer
##      Measurement: nominal
##
##      Values and labels      N      Percent
##
##          0  'Male'   1126888   86.5   83.4
##          1  'Female'  175627   13.5   13.0
##          NA M          48005    3.6
##
## =====
##
##      CITIZEN 'Indicates the defendant's citizenship with respect to US
##      citizen'
##
## -----
##
##      Storage mode: integer
##      Measurement: nominal
##
##      Values and labels      N      Percent
##
##      1  'US Citizen'      813015   62.9   60.2

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##      2  'Resident/Legal Alien'  78718      6.1    5.8
##      3  'Illegal Alien'        374180     28.9   27.7
##      4  'Other'                26975      2.1    2.0
##      NA M                      57632      4.3
##
## =====
##
##      EDUCATN 'Indicates the highest level of education achieved by the
##      defendant'
##
## -----
##
##      Storage mode: integer
##      Measurement: ordinal
##
##              Values and labels      N      Percent
##
##      0  'No Schooling'              11747      1.0    0.9
##      1  'Below High School'         563120     46.5   41.7
##      2  'High School Graduate'      541648     44.8   40.1
##      3  'Special Degree'            22019      1.8    1.6
##      4  'College Graduate'          52572      4.3    3.9
##      5  'Advanced/Professional Degree' 18938      1.6    1.4
##      NA M                          140476     10.4
##
## =====
##
##      AGE 'Indicates the age of the defendant.'
##
## -----
##
##      Storage mode: integer
##      Measurement: interval
##
##      Min:      16.000
##      Max:      103.000
##      Mean:      34.682
##      Std.Dev.:  10.779
##      Skewness:   0.860
##      Kurtosis:   0.480
##      Miss.:    48057.000
##      NAs:      48057.000
##
## =====
##
##      STATMIN 'Total statutory minimum prison term in months'
##
## -----
##
##      Storage mode: integer
##      Measurement: interval
##
##      Min:      0.000
##      Max:      9996.000

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```

##          Mean:      49.651
##      Std.Dev.:    449.431
##      Skewness:     21.700
##      Kurtosis:     476.878
##      Miss.:    59309.000
##      NAs:    59309.000
##
## =====
##
##      STATMAX 'Total statutory maximum prison term in months'
##
## -----
##
##      Storage mode: integer
##      Measurement: interval
##
##          Min:      0.000
##          Max:    96720.000
##          Mean:    1550.591
##      Std.Dev.:    3351.309
##      Skewness:      2.151
##      Kurtosis:      3.425
##      Miss.:   125276.000
##      NAs:   125276.000
##
## =====
##
##      DISPOSIT 'Disposition of the defendant's case'
##
## -----
##
##      Storage mode: integer
##      Measurement: nominal
##
##      Values and labels      N      Percent
##
##      0  'Guilty Plea' 1260441    95.6    93.3
##      1  'Trial'      54996      4.2     4.1
##      2  'Other'       2755      0.2     0.2
##      NA M              32328          2.4
##
## =====
##
##      TOTPRISN 'Total number months of imprisonment ordered'
##
## -----
##
##      Storage mode: integer
##      Measurement: interval
##
##          Min:      0.000
##          Max:    11520.000
##          Mean:      83.567
##      Std.Dev.:    577.835

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##          Skewness:      16.861
##          Kurtosis:      286.176
##          Miss.: 109208.000
##          NAs: 109208.000
##
## =====
##
##          XFOLSOR 'The final offense level, as determined by the court'
##
## -----
##
##          Storage mode: integer
##          Measurement: interval
##
##          Min:      0.000
##          Max:      53.000
##          Mean:      18.504
##          Std.Dev.:  8.948
##          Skewness:  0.299
##          Kurtosis: -0.694
##          Miss.: 73643.000
##          NAs: 73643.000
##
## =====
##
##          XCRHISSR 'The final criminal history category, as determined by the
##          court'
##
## -----
##
##          Storage mode: integer
##          Measurement: interval
##
##          Min:      1.000
##          Max:      9.000
##          Mean:      2.430
##          Std.Dev.:  1.743
##          Skewness:  0.964
##          Kurtosis: -0.237
##          Miss.: 63851.000
##          NAs: 63851.000
##
## =====
##
##          DISTRICT 'The district in which the defendant's case is sentenced'
##
## -----
##
##          Storage mode: integer
##          Measurement: nominal
##
##          Values and labels      N      Percent
##
##          (unlab.vld.) 1320790    100.0    97.8

```

```

##      NA M                29730                2.2
##
## =====
##
##      MONCIRC 'The circuit in which the defendant's case is sentenced'
##
## -----
##
##      Storage mode: integer
##      Measurement: nominal
##
##      Values and labels      N      Percent
##
##      (unlab.vld.) 1320790    100.0    97.8
##      NA M          29730      2.2

```