A New Database for the Study of Southern Lynchings
CODEBOOK: 1920 Section
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Variable Name	Variable Label	Variable Description
uniqidch	Random ID	Random identification number for each individual case.
year	Year lynching occurred	This variable indicates the year in which the individual was lynched.
mo	Month lynching occurred	This numeric variable indicates the month of the year in which the lynching occurred.
day	Day of month lynching occurred	This numeric variable indicates the day of the month on which the lynching occurred.
state	Two-letter abbreviation for state where lynching occurred	This character variable presents the two-letter abbreviation for the state in which the lynching occurred. CODE STATE AL Alabama AR Arkansas FL Florida GA Georgia KY Kentucky LA Louisiana MS Mississippi NC North Carolina SC South Carolina TN Tennessee
stfip	ICPSR code for state where lynching occurred	This numeric variable indicates the state in which the lynching occurred, using a coding scheme established by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. CODE STATE 41 Alabama 42 Arkansas 43 Florida 44 Georgia

		51	Kentucky
		45	Louisiana
		46	Mississippi
		47	North Carolina
		48	South Carolina
		54	Tennessee

county	Name of county where lynching occurred	This character variable lists the name of the county in which the lynching occurred.
cofip	ICPSR code for county where lynching occurred	This numeric variable indicates the county in which the lynching occurred, using a coding scheme developed by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. Note that county codes are not unique between states.
name1	First reported name for victim	This character variable identifies the victim's name as reported in the Beck-Tolnay inventory of lynch victims. For victims with more than one reported name, this field will include the first name reported for the victim.
name2	Second reported name for victim	If more than one name was reported for a lynch victim in the Beck-Tolnay inventory, this character variable identifies the second reported name. For victims with only one name reported in the Beck-Tolnay inventory, this field will be blank.
name3	Third reported name for victim	If the Beck-Tolnay inventory included three names reported for a single victim, this character variable identifies the third reported name. For victims with only one or two names reported, this field will be blank.
race	Reported race of victim	This character field indicates the race of the victim as reported in the Beck-Tolnay inventory. CODE RACE BLK Black WHT White OTH Other race UNK Race unknown

sex	Reported sex of victim	This character variable indicates the sex of the victim as reported in the Beck-Tolnay inventory. CODE SEX MALE Male FEM Female UNK Sex unknown
mob	Race of mob	This character variable indicates the main racial composition of the mob that carried out the lynching, as recorded in the Beck-Tolnay inventory. CODE RACE_OF MOB BLK Black WHT White OTH Other race UNK Race unknown
offense	Alleged offense of victim	This character variable indicates the reason given by the mob for lynching this particular individual.
frstname	First name in Beck-Tolnay inventory	This character variable indicates the first name for the victim, as recorded in the Beck-Tolnay inventory. It should be noted that there may be more than one name reported for each victim, and that this variable indicates the first reported name.
lastname	Last name in Beck-Tolnay inventory	This character variable indicates the last name for the victim, as recorded in the Beck-Tolnay inventory. It should be noted that there may be more than one name reported for each victim, and that this variable may take on different values if matches are identified in the census for more than one reported name.
namen	Number of name from database	The information in this field is a repeat of the variable namenum.
foundn	Found name	The information in this field is a repeat if the variable foundnum.
namenum	Number of reported names for this	This numeric variable identifies the number of names reported for this

	victim	victim, and included in the Beck-Tolnay inventory. Note that unnamed victims are identified as having one name. FREQUENCY 1 – One name reported for this victim 2 – Two names reported for this victim 3 – Three names reported for this victim
foundnum	Number of matches identified for this victim	This numeric variable indicates which data record this is for this particular match.
likegenl	Subjective level of confidence in single matches.	This numeric variable is assigned only for cases with only one potential match identified in the census enumerators' manuscripts. For those cases with more than one possible match identified in the census, this variable will be blank. CODE VALUE 1 High 2 Medium -3 No matches found -5 More than 10 matches found -7 Difficult: Could not narrow to fewer than 3
likepct	Subjective level of confidence in match with multiple possible identified.	This numeric variable is assigned only for those cases in which more than one possible match was identified in the census enumerators' manuscripts. Possible values range from 0.10 to 0.90, and the values for all matches in a given case will sum to 1.0. For those cases in which a single match was identified, this variable will be blank.
distnce	Distance between county of lynching and county where victim enumerated.	This numeric code indicates the relative distance between the county in which the lynching occurred and the county where the victim was enumerated in the 1880 census. CODE VALUE 1 Victim enumerated in same county as lynching.

		2	Victim enumerated in county contiguous to that where lynching occurred.
		3	Victim enumerated in same state as that in which lynching occurred, in a noncontiguous county.
		4	Victim enumerated in different state than that in which lynching occurred, in a non-contiguous county.
coname	Name of county where victim enumerated.		This character variable lists the name of the county where this individual was enumerated in the 1920 census.
stname	Name of state where victim enumerated.		This character variable lists the name of the state where this individual was enumerated in the 1920 census.
town	Town or district		This character variable lists the city, town, township or district where the victim was identified in the census manuscripts.
nameplac	Place Name		This variable identifies the census supervisor's place name in which the victim was identified.
cityward	City Ward		This variable identifies the census enumerator's city ward in which the victim was identified.
supdist	Supervisor's district		This variable identifies the census supervisor's district in which the victim was identified.
enumdist	Enumeration District		This variable identifies the census enumerator's district in which the victim was identified.
sheetnum	Sheet Number		This variable identifies the census enumerator's sheet number in which the victim was identified.
slctnote	Note on why this individual selected		This field includes alphanumeric codes that indicate which characteristics led to this individual's being assigned the level of probability listed in variables likegenl or likepct. This field is left blank (not completed) in most cases.

		CODE VALUE A Geography B Same name C Age D Race E Occupation F Family Member
sources	Sources used in making selection	This variable identifies the sources of information used – either primary documents or secondary sources based on primary documentation – in identifying the level of confidence in a particular match. CODE VALUE A Confirmation sheet B Beck database C WWI Draft Card D Newspaper article E Death certificate
instit	Jail, Prison, Hospital or other Institution	This dichotomous variable identifies whether the individual in question was enumerated living in an institution. CODE VALUE 0 Individual not living in an institution 1 Individual not living in an institution
stradd	Street address	Street address where this match was enumerated in the 1920 census.
dweln	Dwelling number	The number of the dwelling within the census enumerator's district or territory. Dwellings were numbered sequentially in the order in which they were visited by the enumerator.
famnum	Family number	The number of the family enumerated by the census enumerator's district or territory. Families were numbered sequentially in the order in which they were visited by the enumerator. The family number may be greater than the dwelling number, since more than one family may reside in each dwelling. This number will not be smaller than the dwelling number.
linep01	Line number for person 1	This variable identifies the line number on which the record for the first member of this household appears.

namep01	Name of first person in household	The first and last name of the first individual listed in this household, recorded exactly as enumerated in the census.
victp01	Dummy: Was person 1 the lynch victim?	This dichotomous variable indicates whether the first person enumerated in this household is thought to be the lynch victim. CODE VALUE 0 Person 1 is not the lynch victim 1 Person 1 is the lynch victim
relp01	Alphanumeric: relation to head for person 1	This alphanumeric variable indicates person 1's relationship to the head of household.
ownrp01	*Dwelling owned or being rented.*	*This variable identifies whether the dwelling in which this household lived was owned (free or with a mortgage) by one of its occupants, or was being rented.* *CODE VALUE* *O Home owned.* *R Home rented.*
owntp01	*If owned, whether mortgaged or owned outright.*	*This variable identifies whether the dwelling in which this household lived was owned (free or with a mortgage) by one of its occupants, or was being rented.* *CODE VALUE* *M Home has mortgage.* *F Home owned free and clear.*
sexp01	Categorical: Sex for person 1	This categorical variable indicates whether this person was recorded as male or female. CODE VALUE 1 Male 2 Female
racep01	Categorical: Race recorded for this person	This categorical variable indicates the race that was recorded for this household member.

		CODE VALUE
		1 White
		2 Black
		3 Mulatto
		4 Chinese
		5 Indian
agep01	Continuous: Age for person 1	This continuous variable indicates the age, in years, for person 1. For infants under the age of 1, their age is recorded as 0.5.
marp01	Categorical: Person 1's marital status	This categorical variable records person 1's marital status. This was asked of all persons age 12 and older. CODE VALUE 1 Single (never married) 2 Married 3 Widowed 4 Divorced
yrimmp01	Person 1 - Year of Immigration	This variable indicates the year in which person 1 immigrated to the United States, if s/he was born in a different country.
natalp01	Person 1 – naturalization status	This variable indicates Person 1's citizenship status, if s/he was born outside the United States.
ntyrp01	Person 1 – year of naturalization	This variable indicates Person 1's year of naturalization, if s/he was born outside the United States.
inschp01	Person 1 attended school since 9/1/1909.	This variable records whether Person 1 attended school since 9/1/1919. CODE VALUE 0 No: Person 1 did not attend school since 9/1/1919. 1 Yes: Person 1 attended school since 9/1/1919.
readp01	Person 1 can read	This variable records whether Person 1 was **able** to read. The question was asked of persons age 10 and older. CODE VALUE 0 No: Person 1 cannot read. 1 Yes: Person 1 can read.

writp01	Person 1 can write	This variable records whether Person 1 was **able** to write. The question was asked of persons age 10 and older.
		
		CODE VALUE
		  0 No, person 1 cannot write.
		  1 Yes: Person 1 can write.

bplp01	Alphanumeric: Person 1 birthplace	This alphanumeric variable records the birthplace for Person 1.
lanp01	Alphanumeric: Person 1's Native Language	This alphanumeric variable records the native language for Person 1.
fbpp01	Alphanumeric: Birthplace for Person 1's father.	This alphanumeric variable records the birthplace for Person 1's father.
flanp01	Alphanumeric: Native Language for Person 1's Father	This alphanumeric variable records the native language for Person 1's father.
mbpp01	Alphanumeric: Birthplace for Person 1's mother.	This alphanumeric variable records the birthplace for Person 1's mother.
mlanp01	Alphanumeric: Native Language for Person 1's Mother	This alphanumeric variable records the native language for Person 1's mother.

spengp01	Person 1 can speak English	This variable records whether Person 1 was able to speak English. The question was asked of persons age 10 and older.
		
		CODE VALUE
		  0 No, person 1 cannot speak English.
		  1 Yes: Person 1 can speak English.

occp01	Alphanumeric: Person 1's occupation.	This question was asked of individuals age 10 and older, who had been employed or looking for work during the past 12 months. The alphanumeric variable presented here indicates the occupation recorded for Person 1. Missing values are indicated with a period (.).
indp01	Alphanumeric: Person 1's industry.	This question was asked of individuals age 10 and older, who had been employed or looking for work during the past 12 months. The alphanumeric variable presented here indicates the industry recorded for Person 1. Missing values are indicated with a period (.).

emptpp01	Alphanumeric: Person 1's employment type.	This question was asked of individuals age 10 and older, who had been employed or looking for work during the past 12 months. The alphanumeric variable presented here indicates the employment type recorded for Person 1. Missing values are indicated with a period (.).
farmsp01	*Farm schedule*	*For households that lived on farms, this variable identifies the corresponding number that identifies it on the farm schedule, a census of agricultural enterprises that was collected at the same time as the population census.*
notep01	Notes on person 1	This alphanumeric field contains notes from the data entry coder to indicate issues with Person 1's census record. The most common use of this field is for census legibility issues.

Some specific information that applies to the entire household is only listed under the first person enumerated (usually the head of household). These variables include: whether the dwelling was owned or rented (variable: ownrp01), if the dwelling was mortgaged or owned outright (owntp01), if the dwelling was a farm or a house (frmhsp01), and the farm schedule (farmsp01). Please note that none of these variables were included in the 1880 census, but were included in each of the other 3 decades. Information on these household-level variables appears in italicized type in the table above.

Similarly, besides this general household information, each census record contains the same information for each individual household member. For example, the variable occp03 indicates the occupation recorded for the third person enumerated in a household. For this reason, the 1900, 1910 and 1920 codebooks only contain the variables for the first household member enumerated. Please see the 1880 codebook for a more complete overview of each variable for each of the possible 15 household members.