



NACJD Recidivism User Guide

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Fall 2023

Dr. Klein

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Introduction

Established in 1978, The National Archive of Criminal Justice Data ([NACJD](#)) serves as a vital repository for crime and justice data. The NACJD boasts an expansive array of observational and experimental data, which facilitates important analysis in the criminal justice field. They house several large-scale datasets that contain survey and demographic information, dating back to the early 1970's.

This archive is part of a larger archive of social science research, the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research ([ICPSR](#)). Both resources are funded by the University of Michigan.

This user guide will specifically delve into studies related to recidivism, though the instruction provided is versatile and applicable to many subtopics and studies featured on the website.

Recidivism is the tendency for convicted criminals to re-offend when released. This phenomenon is a focal point of many national statistics programs and independent studies within this archive.

Navigating the Website

The NACJD's expansive archive houses 3,144 studies. The website offers an intuitive filtering system to help the user navigate the data, accessible through the '*Discover Data*' button in the navigation bar on the top right of the screen. Upon clicking, users are directed to a page enabling both keyword searching and filtering with the provided topics.

These filters cover the categories of sponsors, national statistics studies, criminal justice processing, access, data format, data type, and special topics. The special topics encompass critical areas such as Child Abuse and Maltreatment, Drugs and Alcohol, Gangs, Guns and Other Weapons, Homicide, Juvenile Delinquency and Justice, Prostitution, Human Trafficking, Sex Crimes, Recidivism, Terrorism and Hate Crimes, Violence Against Women, White-Collar and Environmental Crime.



About

The National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) is the place to discover, access, and analyze data on crime and justice.

NACJD hosts several large-scale datasets, including the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), and the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN).

Discover

[3,452 studies](#)

[1,761,615 variables](#)

[29,539 publications](#)

News

[November 2023 Data Releases](#)

[October 2023 Data Releases](#)

[September 2023 Data Releases](#)

[August 2023 Data Releases](#)

[ICPSR will be closed on Sept. 4, 2023, in observance of Labor Day](#)

[July 2023 Data Releases](#)

Navigating the Website [Image 1]: NACJD home page. The 'Discover Data' button is highlighted in blue.

Filters

Discover Data

Search for data ...

Looking for forensic science data? Explore information on [NIJ-funded research projects in the forensic sciences](#)

[Search tips](#)

Use the categories below to narrow your search. [\[?\]](#)

SPONSOR

- BJS
- NIJ
- OJJDP

NATIONAL STATISTICS

- National Crime Victimization Survey
- National Incident-Based Reporting System
- FBI Uniform Crime Reporting
- Annual Parole Survey
- Annual Probation Survey
- Annual Survey of Jails
- Mortality in Correctional Institutions
- Federal Court Cases Integrated Database
- Federal Justice Statistics Program
- National Corrections Reporting Program

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESSING

- Policing
- Corrections
- Court Case Processing
- Other Court Data

DATA FORMAT [\[?\]](#)

- SPSS
- Stata
- SAS
- R
- Excel/TSV
- Online Analysis [\[?\]](#)

ACCESS

- Public [\[?\]](#)
- Restricted [\[?\]](#)

TYPES OF DATA

- Experimental
- Longitudinal
- Qualitative
- GIS data

SPECIAL TOPICS

- Child Abuse and Maltreatment
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Gangs
- Guns and Other Weapons
- Homicide
- Juvenile Delinquency and Justice
- Prostitution, Human Trafficking, and Sex Crimes
- Recidivism
- Terrorism and Hate Crimes
- Violence Against Women
- White-Collar and Environmental Crime

Filters [Image 1]: 'Discover Data' page on the NACJD website. This page allows users to select multiple research terms to narrow down their searches. Filters are chosen in blue.

To find all the data on recidivism, click ‘*Recidivism*’ under the ‘*Special Topics*’ subtitle. The NACJD website contains both public and restricted data. This user guide, along with our analysis and instructions, will focus primarily on public data. However, the next section will detail the process of requesting access for both the public and restricted datasets, including some information about the differences between the two types. To continue following this user guide, click the ‘*Public*’ button under the ‘*Access*’ subtitle. After all the fields are selected, click the red ‘*SEARCH*’ button at the bottom of the page. Once the above instructions are completed, the user’s screen will reflect the image below (*Filters [Image 2]*).

Study Title/Investigator	Released/Updated
1. Adult Criminal Careers in New York, 1972-1983 (ICPSR 9353) Blumstein, Alfred; Cohen, Jacqueline	2006-01-12
2. Alternative Probation Strategies in Baltimore, Maryland (ICPSR 8355) Collins, James J.	2006-01-12
3. Arrests Without Conviction, 1979-1980: Jacksonville and San Diego (ICPSR 8180) Feeley, Floyd	2006-01-12

Filters [Image 2]: ‘Search Results’ page on the NACJD website. This shows the user all the studies that fulfill their search terms.

Public Data v. Restricted Data

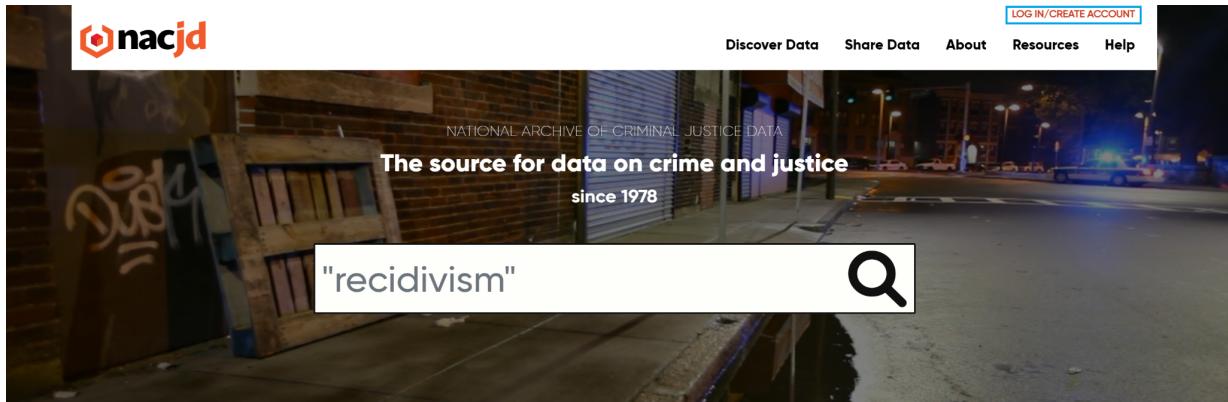
Public data is available to all users who create and verify a free account. Public data is often considered to be open data, which is data that is free to use. The public data on NACJD has been audited and evaluated to be of use in secondary research and analyses. Conversion from restricted to public data includes ensuring the respondent’s confidentiality by removing, masking, blanking, or collapsing direct or indirect identifying variables within public-use versions of the dataset.

Public data is data that must be available as a whole in a convenient and modifiable form. The data must be cited properly and dictate proper authority and ownership, allowing for re-use and redistribution of the data itself. It must also be primarily free of discrimination and biases that could be used to marginalize or harm individuals or groups of demographics.

The images and instructions below will walk the user through creating a free account to access unrestricted open data.

NOTE: The blue boxes on the images below highlight the step that is being described.

Step 1: On the top right corner of the home screen, there is a link that reads ‘LOG IN/CREATE ACCOUNT’. Hover the cursor over the link, the text will become underlined and the mouse cursor will change to a hand indicating it is clickable. Click the link to proceed to the next webpage and step.



About

The National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) is the place to discover, access, and analyze data on crime and justice.

NACJD hosts several large-scale datasets, including the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), and the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN).

Discover

[3,452 studies](#)

[1,761,615 variables](#)

[29,522 publications](#)

News

[November 2023 Data Releases](#)

[October 2023 Data Releases](#)

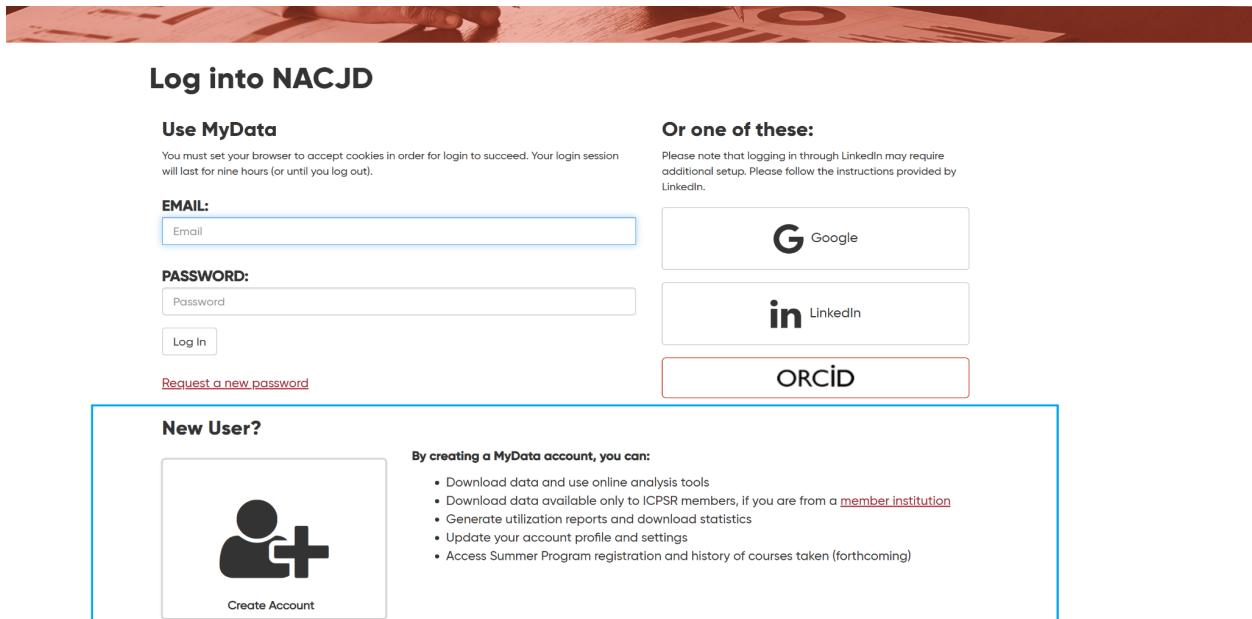
[September 2023 Data Releases](#)

[August 2023 Data Releases](#)

[ICPSR will be closed on Sept. 4, 2023, in observance of Labor Day](#)

Public Data v. Restricted Data [Image 1]: ‘Home’ page on the NACJD website. Includes a large search bar in the middle of the page.

Step 2: On the next page, scroll to the bottom, and there should be a ‘New User?’ section. Take notice of the different accesses gained by creating a MyData account. Hover over the box in that section, the box will fill with a red color and the mouse cursor will change to a hand indicating it is clickable. Click the box to proceed to the next webpage and step.



Public Data v. Restricted Data [Image 2]: ‘Log into NACJD’ page on the NACJD website. Can be used to create a new MyData account, log in using a current MyData account, or log in by using other social accounts.

Step 3: On the next page, follow the instructions on the webpage and fill in the text boxes with appropriate information. Not seen in the images below are two drop-down boxes for ‘Organizational Affiliation’ and ‘Department/Field’. Every box on this page is mandatory for account creation except for information regarding an address. Hover over the ‘Submit’ button in that section, the button will fill with a red color and the mouse cursor will change to a hand indicating it is clickable. Click the button to proceed to the next webpage and step.

Create a New Account

In order to download data, you will need to create an account. Please fill out *all* fields in the form below.

Note: Either you're not part of an [ICPSR member institution](#), or your institution has not yet signed up for ICPSR Direct. As such, some of our data will not be available for you to download, even if you create an account with us.

EMAIL ADDRESS

RE-TYPE EMAIL ADDRESS

Note: Your password should be at least 8 characters long, memorable (or stored in a password manager), difficult for someone else to guess, and not used on any other web site.

PASSWORD

RE-TYPE PASSWORD

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

Address (optional):

STREET

CITY

STATE

POSTAL CODE

COUNTRY

Privacy:

If you are at an [ICPSR member institution](#), ICPSR encourages you to allow your campus Official Representative (OR) to view your name and email address. ORs help member institutions get the most out of ICPSR resources, and they are a point of contact between ICPSR and users of ICPSR data on their campus.

May ICPSR allow the OR on your campus to view your information?

Yes

No

Public Data v. Restricted Data [Image 3 and Image 4]: ‘Create a New Account’ page on the NACJD website. Has required and optional fields for the creation of a MyData account.

Step 4: After clicking ‘Submit’, a webpage will be displayed (as seen below) welcoming the user to ICPSR. Scroll down and check to make sure the information provided on the page is correct. After checking the accuracy of the information, take a minute to navigate to the email provided in the previous step. Follow the instructions in the email to verify the account and return to ICPSR. If the email is not displayed in the inbox, try refreshing the email and check the spam or junk folder. Once the email and account are verified, take notice of what can be done with a MyData account and have fun enjoying the ICPSR/NACJD archives.



Welcome to ICPSR

Your new ICPSR MyData account gives you access to downloading data, accessing Data Driven Learning Guides, and so much more. Here's a quick review of what you'll find in MyData.

First, Verify Your Account

We've sent an email to jared.welcherding@gmail.com. Follow the instructions in the email to verify your account before you login. If the email doesn't show up in a few minutes, check your spam mailbox. If it's not there, you can [request a new email](#) or contact [ICPSR Web Support](#).

Getting Started With Your MyData Account

Looking for data? [Get started here](#). Pro tip: try searching our [Bibliography of Data-related Literature](#) to discover how other researchers have used our data in their publications.

Need help with data? Please contact ICPSR-help@umich.edu. You can also reach out to the [ICPSR representatives at your institution](#).

Are you teaching? We have free exercise modules, data-driven learning guides, and more available to take into your classroom. [Learn more about teaching and learning with ICPSR](#).

Are you conducting research? ICPSR can help at all stages of the research process, from writing a [Data Management Plan](#) for a grant proposal to providing a DOI for your archived data. Depositing data with ICPSR is always free. [Learn more about depositing data at ICPSR](#).

Want to know when new data and more is available? If you haven't already, [sign up for ICPSR Announce](#) and ICPSR New Data and Additions, our mailing lists for upcoming opportunities, new data, and more!

Want to learn from the best? The world-renowned [ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research](#) offers over 80 courses in methodologies and techniques for researchers across the social, behavioral, and health sciences.

Public Data v. Restricted Data [Image 5]: ‘Welcome to ICPSR’ page on the ICPSR website. Includes valuable information for new users and steps on how to verify the account using the email provided.

Gaining access to restricted data may be needed to further investigate research questions and establish significant conclusions. Restricted data is typically data that can be used to identify individuals or violate their rights of confidentiality, either explicitly or through a combination of quasi-identifiers. This includes but is not limited to information about organizational and institutional data, personal interviews, observation records, notes, recordings, location of geographic coordinate data, and public records. Restricted-access studies (or parts of studies) are indicated on the study home page under the ‘Access Note’, as well as the presence of an ‘Access Restricted Data’ button underneath the study title.

Below will describe how to gain access to restricted data. The NACJD takes extensive precautions to avoid situations that might lead to a violation of the confidentiality of subject data.

Step 1: After finding a study (ICPSR 37328 demonstrated below), if there is restricted data in the study there will be an ‘Access Restricted Data’ button (seen highlighted below). On the right side of the page, there is information about restricted access under the ‘Notes’ section. Move the mouse to the ‘Access Restricted Data’ button, the button will fill with a black color and the mouse cursor will change to a hand indicating it is clickable. Click the button to proceed with the steps.

21st Century Corporate Financial Fraud, United States, 2005–2010 (ICPSR 37328)

Version Date: Jun 29, 2021 [Cite this study](#) | [Share this page](#)

Principal Investigator(s): [Darrell Steffensmeier](#), Pennsylvania State University, Sociology Department; [Jennifer Schwartz](#), Washington State University

<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37328.v1>

Version VI

The screenshot shows the study page for '21st Century Corporate Financial Fraud, United States, 2005–2010 (ICPSR 37328)'. At the top, there are buttons for 'Analyze Online (SDA)', 'Download', and 'Access Restricted Data' (which is highlighted with a blue border). Below these are tabs for 'At A Glance', 'Data & Documentation', 'Variables', 'Data-related Publications', and 'Export Metadata'. The main content area includes a 'Project Description' section with a 'Summary' subsection. To the right, there are statistics: 843 Downloads, 3 Data-related Publications, and a note about usage reports. The 'Notes' section contains two bullet points: one about public-use data files being available for general access and another about restricted data files which are not available for direct download.

Public Data v. Restricted Data [Image 6]: ‘21st Century Corporate Financial Fraud, United States, 2005–2010 (ICPSR 37328)’ page on the NACJD website. This is an example of what can be found while exploring studies, showing how there is unrestricted and restricted data.

Step 2: After clicking the button, a new window will appear in the middle of the page. It describes the guidelines required for applying for restricted access. To continue with the application, click the red ‘Continue’ button at the bottom of the window. It will open a new window to begin the application process.

21st Century Corporate F

37328)

Version Date: Jun 29, 2021 [Cite this study](#) | [Share this page](#)

Principal Investigator(s): [Darrell Steffensmeier](#), Pennsylvania State University, Sociology Department

<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37328.v1>

Version VI

[Analyze Online \(SDA\)](#)

[At A Glance](#) [Data & Documentation](#) [Variables](#) [Data-relat](#)

[Project Description](#)

[Summary](#)

The Corporate Financial Fraud project is a study of company and top-executive characteristics of firms that ultimately violated Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) financial accounting and securities fraud provisions compared to a sample of public companies that did not. The fraud firm sample was identified through systematic review of SEC accounting enforcement releases from 2005–2010, which included administrative and civil actions, and referrals for criminal prosecution that were identified through mentions in enforcement release, indictments, and news searches. The non-fraud firms were randomly selected from among nearly 10,000 US public companies censused and active during at least one year between 2005–2010 in Standard and Poor's Compustat data. The Company and Top-Executive (CEO) databases combine information from numerous publicly available sources, many in raw form that were hand-coded (e.g., for fraud firms: Accounting and Auditing Enforcement Releases (AAER) enforcement releases, investigation summaries, SEC-filed complaints, litigation proceedings and case outcomes). Financial and structural information on companies for the year leading up to the financial fraud (or around year 2000 for non-fraud firms) was collected from Compustat financial statement data on Form 10-Ks, and supplemented by hand-collected data from

The screenshot shows the 'Guidelines for Applying for Restricted Data' page. At the top, there is a header '2005–2010 (ICPSR)' and a 'Close' button. The main content includes sections for 'General Requirements', 'Must be submitted:', and 'Some require:'. Each section lists specific requirements or steps. At the bottom, there is a 'Continue' button (highlighted with a blue border) and a 'Close' button.

Public Data v. Restricted Data [Image 7]: ‘Guidelines for Applying for Restricted Data’ inner page on the NACJD website. Includes information on how to achieve access to restricted data.

Restricted data is generally only made available to PhD-level researchers and their staff; it is not appropriate for undergraduate-level projects or coursework. The application review timeline varies and can take as little as a few days or as long as 4-6 weeks depending on the completeness of application materials. There are two different guidelines for access, depending on the data being requested. Typically, larger United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) datasets have fewer restrictions on data and fewer requirements for access to restricted data compared to smaller independent studies.

To obtain access to restricted USDOJ datasets, it is required to complete the NACJD Restricted Data Use Agreement. The user will provide detailed information about the project and obtain approval or exemption from an Institutional Review Board (IRB). If the university or institution used does not have an IRB, the project must be reviewed by an independent IRB that is accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Program, Inc. (AAHRPP). The information supplied for restricted access needs to include detailed reasons for the request along with technical specifications of the intention of use for the data and the process that will be followed to secure and access the data.

Datasets that are created and administered in smaller scopes (e.g., state or town jurisdictions compared to federal jurisdictions) with restricted access require two extra steps in addition to the three requirements above. The two extra steps for access to restricted data for datasets more specific to a particular location require an appointment at a research institution and disclosure of the degree being pursued by the user. If an appointment at a research institution is not feasible, it may be conducted under the jurisdiction of the receiving institution.

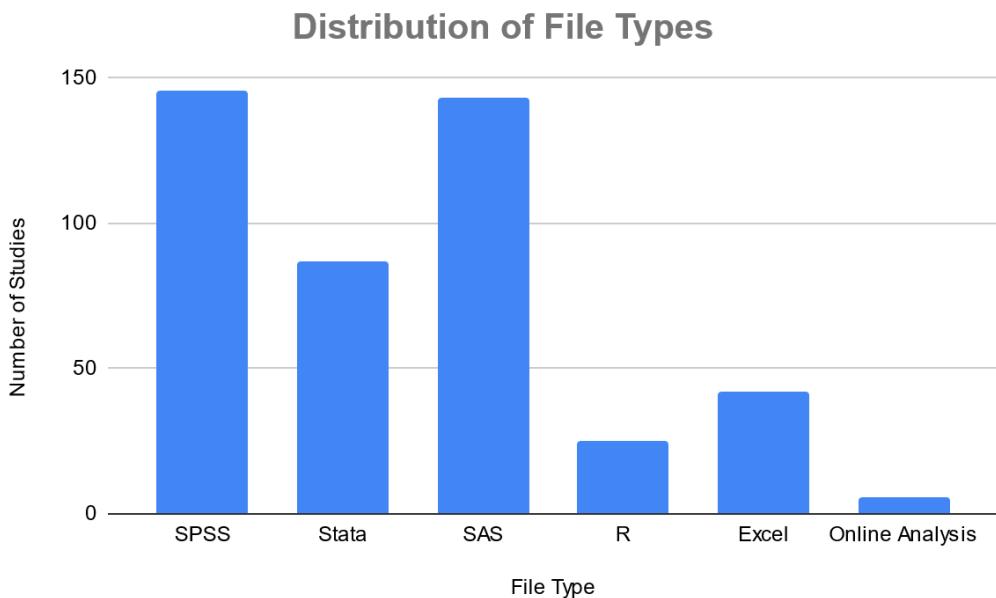
For clarification of the requirements in obtaining restricted access, restricted data is available via a secure download or secure virtual access so traveling to the location of the information is not necessary in most instances. However, some studies are only available via the physical data enclave in Ann Arbor, Michigan. These studies are explicitly stated in the '*Restrictions*' section on the study homepage. The user does not necessarily need to be the one in pursuit of a PhD. An advisor or sponsor at the institution interested in conducting the research and gaining access to restricted data must be listed in the application and act as the advising body. The user would then become part of the research staff acting under the authority of the advisor or the sponsor.

Data Types Available

The NACJD website offers six different file types. Most studies provide their data in multiple file formats, which gives the user more options to analyze the data. The six file types available are; SPSS, Stata, SAS, R, Excel/TSV, and Online Analysis.

- SPSS
 - SPSS stands for '*Statistical Product and Service Solutions*'. SPSS is a software suite created by IBM, that allows users to host databases and complete data analysis. The data can be viewed in a spreadsheet view, similar to Excel, however, formulas cannot be put in the cells.
- Stata
 - Stata is a software application created by StataCorp. Users can view and edit data in spreadsheets, and run analyses on the datasets.

- SAS
 - SAS stands for '*Statistical Analysis Software*'. These files contain text or databases that can be read by the SAS Universal Viewer, which is a free piece of software distributed by SAS.
- R
 - R files contain scripts written in the R programming language. These files are easiest to open with the R Studio application. The scripts can contain datasets that users can analyze within R Studio using the R programming language.
- TSV
 - TSV stands for '*Tab Separated Values*'. A TSV file will have data separated by the tab character, so it can be opened with Notepad, however using an application like Microsoft Excel allows the user to see the data in the spreadsheet format and perform an analysis on it or graph the data.
- Online Analysis
 - Online analysis is hosted by ICPSR to look at the data online using the ICPSR data analysis tool.
- ASCII
 - ASCII stands for '*American Standard Code for Information Interchange*'. The most common character encoding format for text data in computers and on the internet. In standard ASCII-encoded data, there are unique values for 128 alphabetic, numeric, or special additional characters and control codes.



Data Types Available [Image 1]: Graph of the distribution of file types across the 174 public datasets. Datasets can be downloaded in multiple formats.

Available Studies

The data available for the recidivism special topic ranges from individual or institutional surveys to observational studies. 40 of the 174 studies about recidivism are surveys by the United States Sentencing Commission containing demographic information about that year's criminals sentenced. There is a twin study by the commission about the people submitting appeals requests that year.

Additionally, there are observational studies about the effectiveness of laws or new technology concerning recidivism. Some of these studies include *Assessing the Practical and Monetary Efficacy of New Jersey's Megan's Law, 1972-2007 (ICPSR 26401)* and *Experimental Evaluation of Drug Testing and Treatment Interventions for Probationers in Maricopa County, Arizona, 1992-1994 (ICPSR 2025)*.

With the filter for public data and recidivism, there will be no observational or experimental studies available more recently than around 2007. This is because there is a certain year limitation for making data publicly available. Thus if a user wants to find experimental studies look for older studies. The oldest studies date back to 1959-1960; the earliest are from 2021.

Example Topics/Searches Within Recidivism

Below is a list of common ways the user might want to filter the recidivism studies further. For each possibility, a recommendation is provided for finding studies that fit the possible parameters.

Example Information Need	Recommended Solution
Longitudinal study	Keyword search ‘ <i>Longitudinal</i> ’.
Effect of laws or technology on recidivism rates	Keyword search for a specific law or ‘ <i>Law</i> ’.
Data of a specific year or period	Use the ‘ <i>Time Period</i> ’ filter on the left side of the screen.
Specify Geographic Locale	Choose from the autogenerated filters under the ‘ <i>Geography</i> ’ drop-down menu or complete a keyword search.
A study by Funding Agency	Find the funding agencies available in the ‘ <i>Funding Agency</i> ’ drop-down menu.
Juvenile Data	Keyword search for ‘ <i>Juvenile</i> ’
Drug-Related Recidivism	Keyword search for ‘ <i>Drug</i> ’

Navigating A Study Page

In each study available, there are at most 9 tabs of additional information available. This example will be looking at *Assessing the Practical and Monetary Efficacy of New Jersey's Megan's Law, 1972-2007* (ICPSR 26401). NACJD provides a lot of ancillary information and actions for users.

Assessing the Practical and Monetary Efficacy of New Jersey's Megan's Law, 1972-2007 (ICPSR 26401)

Version Date: Apr 19, 2013 [Cite this study](#) | [Share this page](#)

Principal Investigator(s): [Kristen Zgoba](#)

Kristen Zgoba, New Jersey Department of Corrections; Philip Witt, Associates in Psychological Services, P.A.; Melissa Dalessandro, New Jersey Department of Corrections; Bonita Veysey, Rutgers University

<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR26401.v1>

Version VI

Principal Investigator(s): [Kristen Zgoba](#)

Kristen Zgoba, New Jersey Department of Corrections; Philip Witt, Associates in Psychological Services, P.A.; Melissa Dalessandro, New Jersey Department of Corrections; Bonita Veysey, Rutgers University

<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR26401.v1>

Version VI

Explore Data | Analyze Online (SDA) | Download | Access Restricted Data

At A Glance | Data & Documentation | Variables | Data-related Publications | Export Metadata

Project Description

Summary The study investigated New Jersey's Megan's Law and its specific deterrence effect on re-offending, including the level of general and sexual offense recidivism, the nature of sexual re-offenses, and time to first re-arrest for sexual and non-sexual re-offenses (i.e., community tenure). Data were collected on 550 sexual offenders released during the years 1990 to 2000.

Citation Zgoba, Kristen, Witt, Philip, Dalessandro, Melissa, and Veysey, Bonita. Assessing the Practical and Monetary Efficacy of New Jersey's Megan's Law, 1972-2007. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2013-04-19. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR26401.v1>

Export Citation:

- RIS (generic format for RefWorks, EndNote, etc.)

429 Downloads *
Usage Report
* past three years

7 Data-related Publications

Notes

- The public-use data files in this collection are available for access by the general public. Access does not require affiliation with an ICPSR member institution.
- One or more files in this data collection have special restrictions. Restricted data files are not available for direct download from the website; click on the Restricted Data button to learn more.

Navigating A Study Page [Image 1]: The study page is used throughout this section as an example.

Starting at the top of the page, there is the version history date, a premade citation, a button to share the study with other sites, the list of investigators, and the DOI URL. Continuing down, there are options to 'Explore Data', 'Analyze Online (SDA)', 'Download', and 'Access Restricted Data'. At the bottom of the page the 'At A Glance', 'Data & Documentation', 'Variables', 'Data-related Publications', 'Explore Metadata', and 'Project Description'.

Explore Data

The ‘Explore Data’ button redirects to a new page that gives an initial view of the data. There is a preview of 25 rows and the option to choose which columns/variables to view. This is especially helpful in determining if this data could be useful.

Assessing the Practical and Monetary Efficacy of New Jersey's Megan's Law, 1972-2007

Explore Data

[Data Preview](#) [Frequencies](#) [Crosstabs](#)

Data preview provides a quick glimpse into the study's data. A limited number of variables (columns) and cases (rows) will be displayed by default; you may choose other variables to show. This view allows you to see what the data "look like."

[Download codebook](#)

 Data displays only **unweighted** counts and percentages. [More information](#)

DS1 Assessing the Practical and Monetary Efficacy of New Jersey's Megan's Law, 1972-2007
Assessing the Practical and Monetary Efficacy of New Jersey's Megan's Law, 1972-2007

[+ Add variable](#) Show variable name [Clear all](#)

Previewing 25 of 550 total rows as exploration

S.NO	↓↑	CASE IDENTIFIER CREATED BY I ... CASEID	↓↑	OFFENDER'S RACE RACE	↓↑	WAS OFFENDER RAISED IN TRADI ... TWOPARENT	↓↑	OFFENDER'S LIVING ARRANGEM EN ... LIVARRANGE	↓↑	OFFENDER'S LIVE-IN SIBLINGS ... LIVSIBLINGS	↓↑	REPORTED CHILD ABUSE (OF OFF ... ABUSE
1		1		(97) Masked		(1) Yes		(2) Both Parents		1		(1) Sexual
2		2		(97) Masked		(1) Yes		(2) Both Parents		1		(1) Sexual

Navigating A Study Page [Image 2]: Result of pressing the ‘Explore Data’ button on the study page from [Image 1].

Analyze Online (SDA)

This button will appear on every study, but is only available for six of the public recidivism studies. This screenshot shows an example response when the button is clicked.

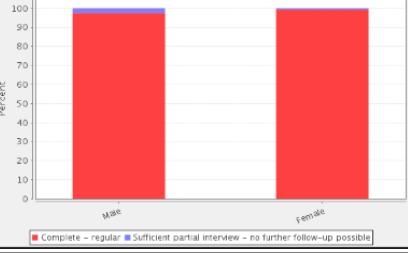
The screenshot shows the SDA Frequencies/Crosstabulation Program interface. At the top, it says "Selected Study: Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, [United States], 2004, Federal Data". Below this are tabs for Analysis, Create Variables, Download, Codebook, and Getting Started. On the left, there's a sidebar titled "Variable Selection: Help" with a list of variables from the survey, including Section 1 through Section 9, and Computed Variables. The "Selected" dropdown shows "V0001". The "Copy to:" dropdown has "Row" selected. The "Mode:" dropdown has "Append" selected. The main area is titled "SDA Frequencies/Crosstabulation Program Help: General / Recoding Variables". It includes fields for "Row", "Column", "Control", "Selection Filter(s)", and "Weight". A note says "Example: age(18-50)". Below these are two large sections: "TABLE OPTIONS" and "CHART OPTIONS". Under TABLE OPTIONS, there are checkboxes for "Percentaging", "Confidence intervals Level: 95 percent", "Standard error of each percent", "Design effect (DEFT) for each percent", "Sample design: Complex or SRS", and "N of cases to display: Unweighted or Weighted". Under CHART OPTIONS, there are checkboxes for "Type of chart: Stacked Bar Chart", "Bar chart orientation: Vertical or Horizontal", "Visual Effects: 2-D or 3-D", "Show percents: Yes or No", "Palette: Color or Grayscale", and "Size - width: 600 and height: 400". At the bottom, there's a "Title:" input field, a "Run the Table" button, and a "Clear Fields" button. There's also a section for "Change number of decimal places to display" with dropdowns for "For percentages and confidence intervals: 1", "For std. errors (relative to percents): 1+/-", "For DEFT: 3+/-", "For weighted N's: 1", and "For summary statistics and Z-statistic: 2".

Navigating A Study Page [Image 3]: Example response from choosing the 'Analyze Online' button on a study page [Image 1].

This is the UI of an Online Analysis page of ICPSR 4572. To get a spreadsheet to look at, type in the variable names in the 'Row' box. If more specific data is needed, type names into the 'Column' box. For example, by selecting '*Outcome*' from this study as the row and '*Sex*' as the column, running the table would produce this result:

SDA 3.5: Tables						
Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, [United States], 2004, Federal Data						
Dec 04, 2023 (Mon 04:58 PM EST)						
Variables						
Role	Name	Label	Range	MD	Dataset	
Row	V0003	OUTCOME	201-203		1	
Column	V0004	SEX	1-2	9	1	
Weight	V2927	FINALWT: FINAL WEIGHT	4,6059-113,6659		1	

Frequency Distribution								
Cells contain:				V0004				
Column percent				1 Male	2 Female	ROW TOTAL		
V0003	201: Complete - regular		97.5	99.3	97.6			
	203: Sufficient partial interview - no further follow-up possible		117,119.0	9,071.1	126,190.1			
	COL TOTAL		2.5	.7	.4			
			3,047.9	60.6	3,108.5			
			100.0	100.0	100.0			
			120,165.9	9,131.8	129,299.6			

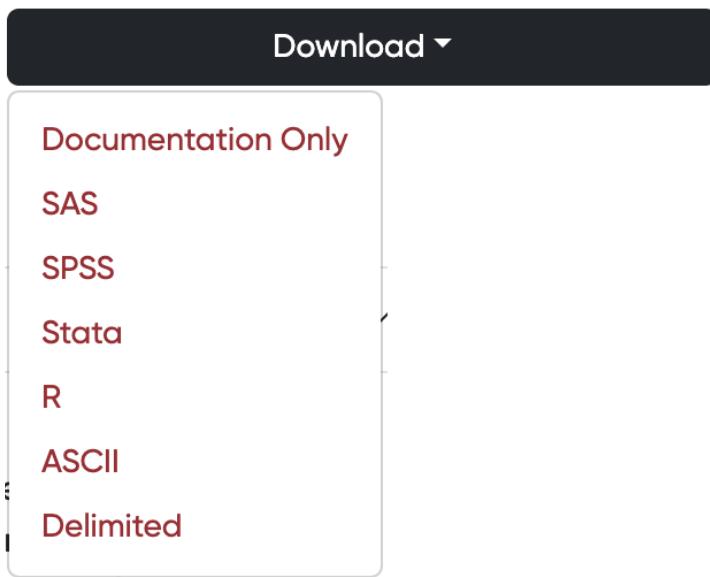
OUTCOME BY SEX						
						
<p>■ Complete - regular ■ Sufficient partial interview - no further follow-up possible</p>						

Allocation of cases (unweighted)						
Valid cases						3,686
Total cases						3,686
Datasets						
1 /SDA/NACJD/04572-0001 2 /SDA/NACJD/04572-0001						

Navigating A Study Page [Images 4]: Analyze Online (SDA) screenshot.

This tool can be very useful, as it automatically analyzes the data in several ways by inputting the row and column names. However, the UI is fairly outdated and can be difficult to initially figure out.

Download



Navigating A Study Page [Image 5]: Result of clicking the 'Download' button on the right side of the screen in image 1.

When clicked on the 'Download' button will show a list of formats the study can be downloaded in. *See [Data Types Available](#); for an explanation of the file types

Access Restricted Data

While this example study was found by filtering for only 'Public' data, it still contains some restricted data. The restricted data often contains identifying information about the study participants or data collected from minors. As stated previously, approval from the website is needed before being able to access the additional restricted data. *See [Public Data v. Restricted Data](#), for further information on this process.

At A Glance

This section contains all the information about the study. To understand the study's purpose and design look to the 'Methodology' subtitle to find an explanation.

Data and Documentation

This tab shows the data available for download as well as preview options. The documentation pdf and the user guide pdf are extremely helpful in understanding the study's data.

Variables

This section, allows users to sort through the variables of the study. A large portion of the studies are surveys or contain demographic data, and therefore have an abundance of variables.

Variables can be sorted by relevance, variable label, and study variable order. An example of a variable is ‘*REARRDATE*’, which is the first rearrest date.

At A Glance Data & Documentation Variables Data-related Publications Export Metadata

1 to 50 of 122

Sort by: Variable Label Refine: Search more options

Name	Label/Question Text	Type	Dataset
REARRDATE	<i>1ST RE-ARREST DATE</i>	character	DS1

Taken from: Assessing the Practical and Monetary Efficacy of New Jersey's Megan's Law, 1972-2007.

Navigating A Study Page [Image 6]: Screenshot of the variables button on a study page from image 1.

Data-Related Publications

Publications that have used this data before are put in this section. Look through these articles to understand how others have used this data in the past.

Export Metadata

The metadata records for the study’s data.

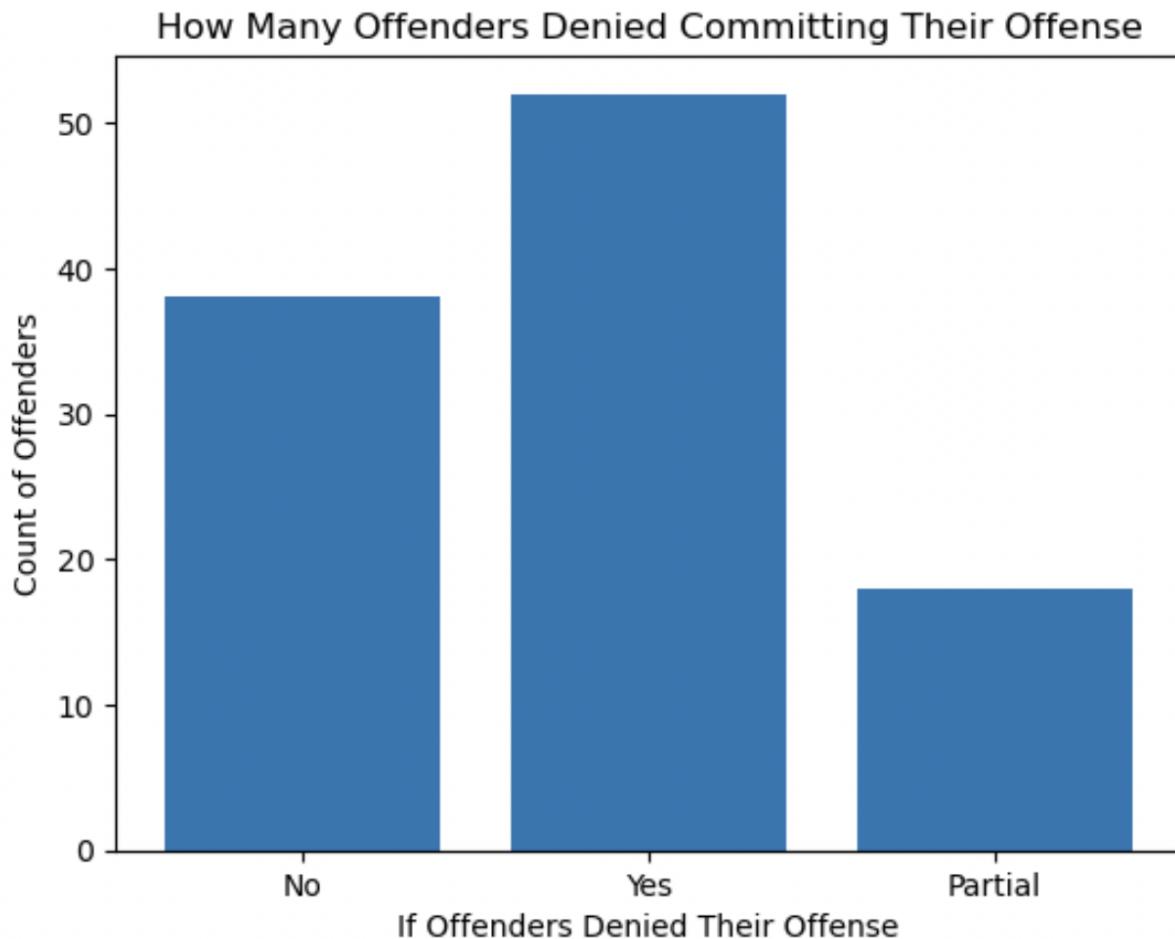
Sample Visualizations

Dataset 1

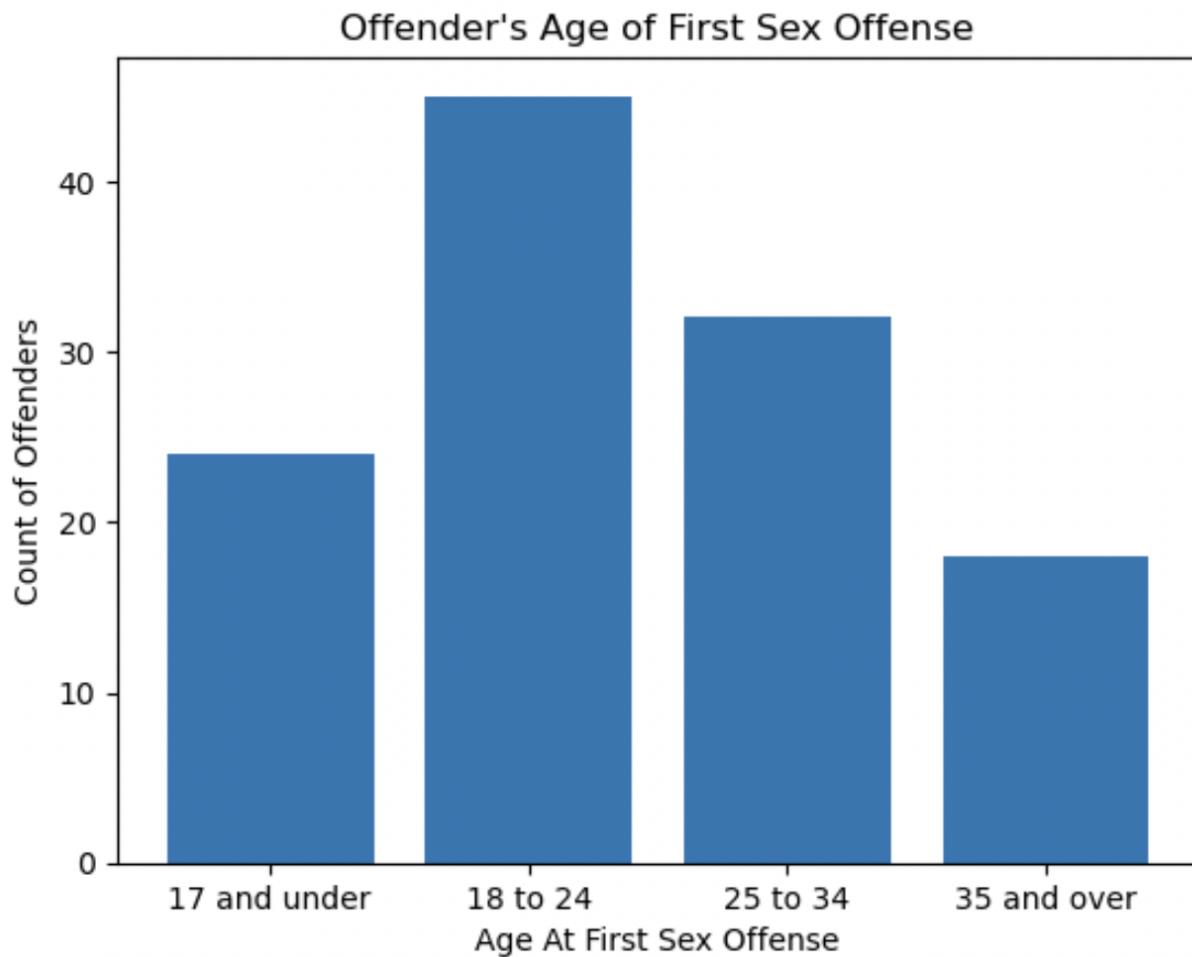
Zgoba, Kristen, Witt, Philip, Dalessandro, Melissa, and Veysey, Bonita. *Assessing the Practical and Monetary Efficacy of New Jersey's Megan's Law, 1972-2007*. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2013-04-19.

<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR26401.v1>

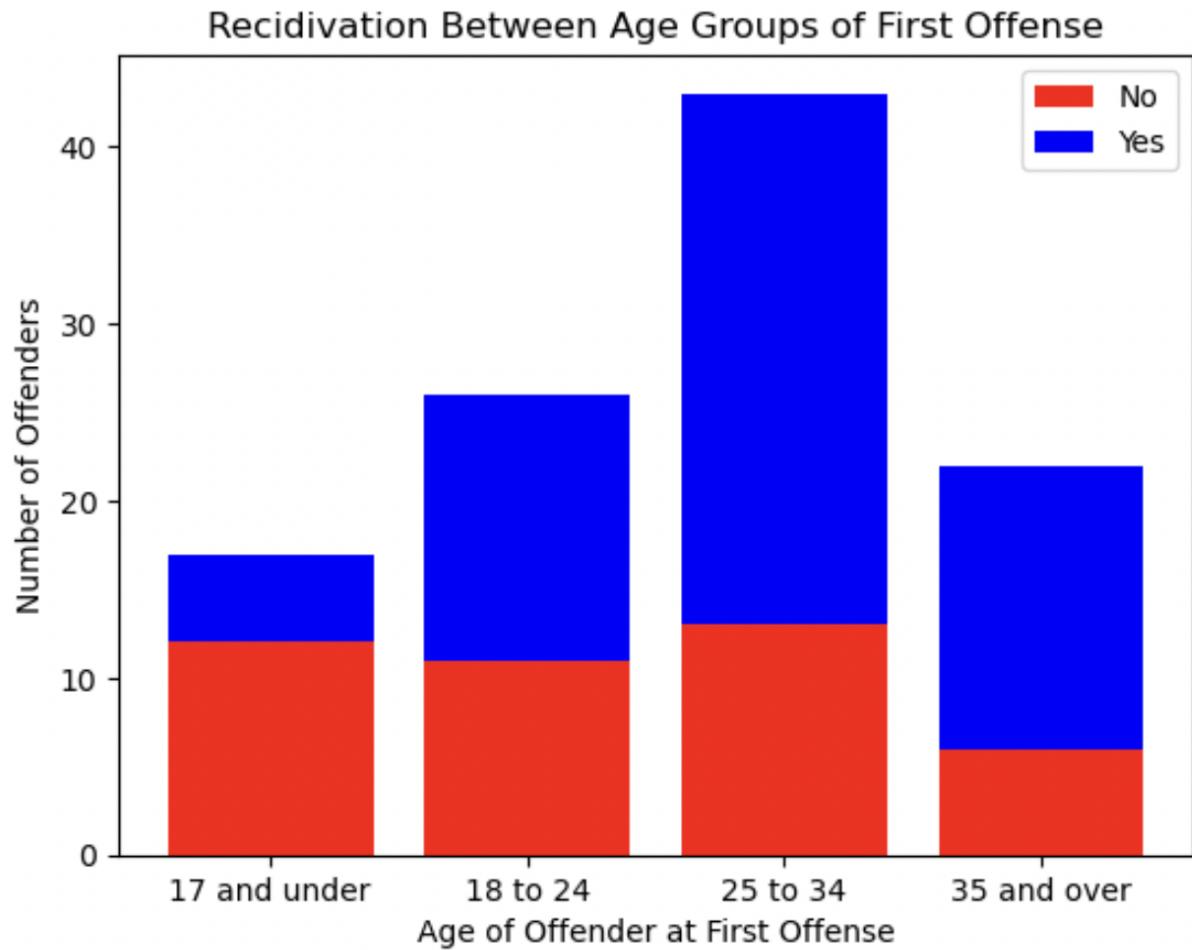
This is a longitudinal study about the effectiveness of Megan's Law in New Jersey. The law institutes a sex offender registry in New Jersey. The study takes place over 21 years and details sex offenses 10 years before and 10 years after the law's implementation.



Dataset 1 [Figure 1]: The count of offenders that did, did not, or partially denied committing their offenses. In the data the answers are represented numerically: 0 for no, 1 for yes, and 3 for partial.



Dataset 1 [Figure 2]: Provides the age of offenders upon committing their first sexual offense. The responses were represented numerically; 1 - 17 and under, 2 - 18 to 24, 3 - 25 to 34, and 4 - 35 and over.

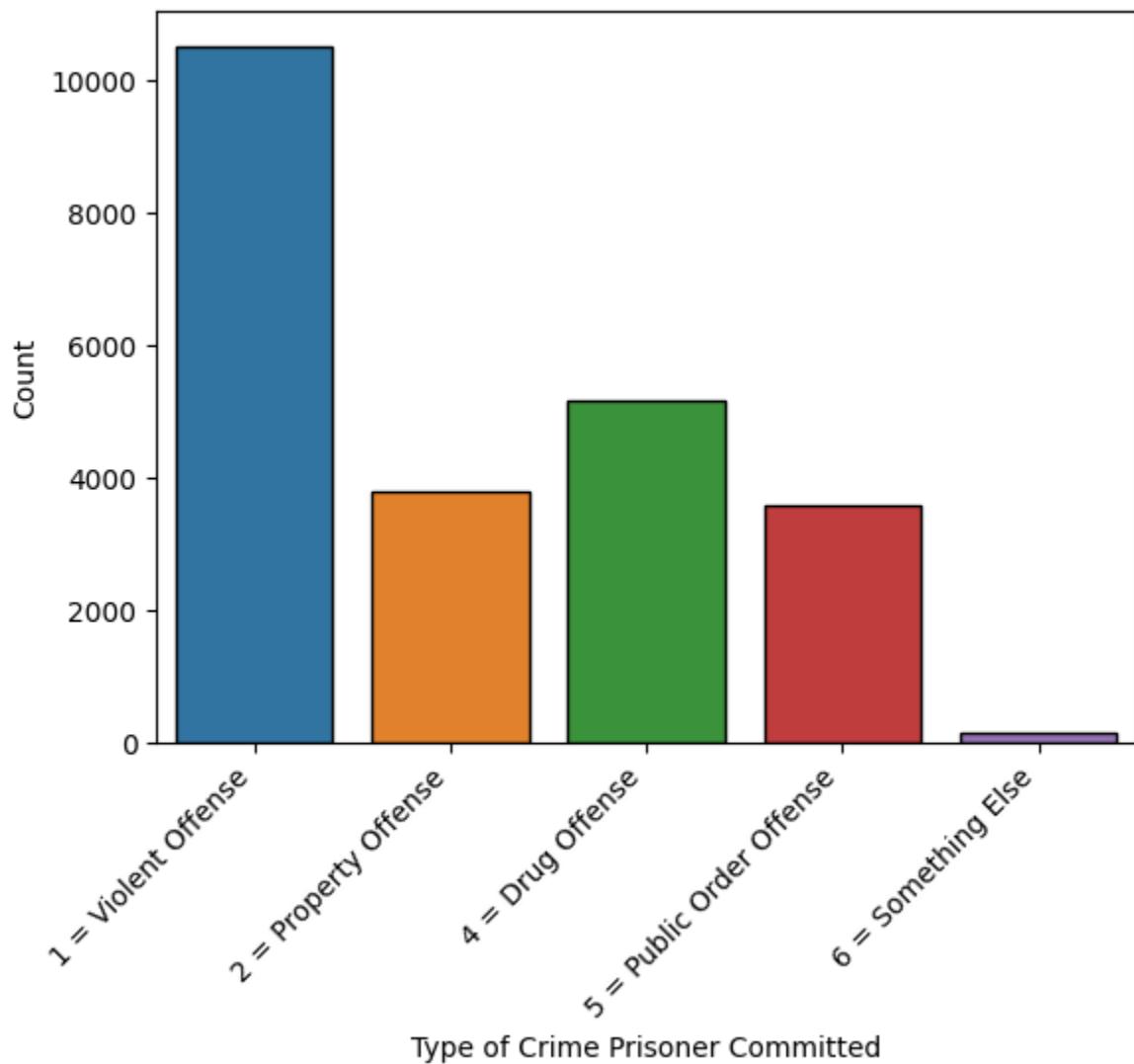


Dataset 1 [Figure 3]: Combines the age at the first offense and whether or not the offender recidivated. Insight: people whose first offense occurred when they were between 25 and 34 were more likely to recidivate.

Dataset 2

United States. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Survey of Prison Inmates, United States, 2016. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2021-09-15. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37692.v4>

This survey contains three different datasets, two of which contain interview information from both state and federal prison facilities, and one which contains interview information from only state facilities. This graph analyzes the first dataset, DS0001, which contains interviews with 24,848 inmates in both state and federal prisons.

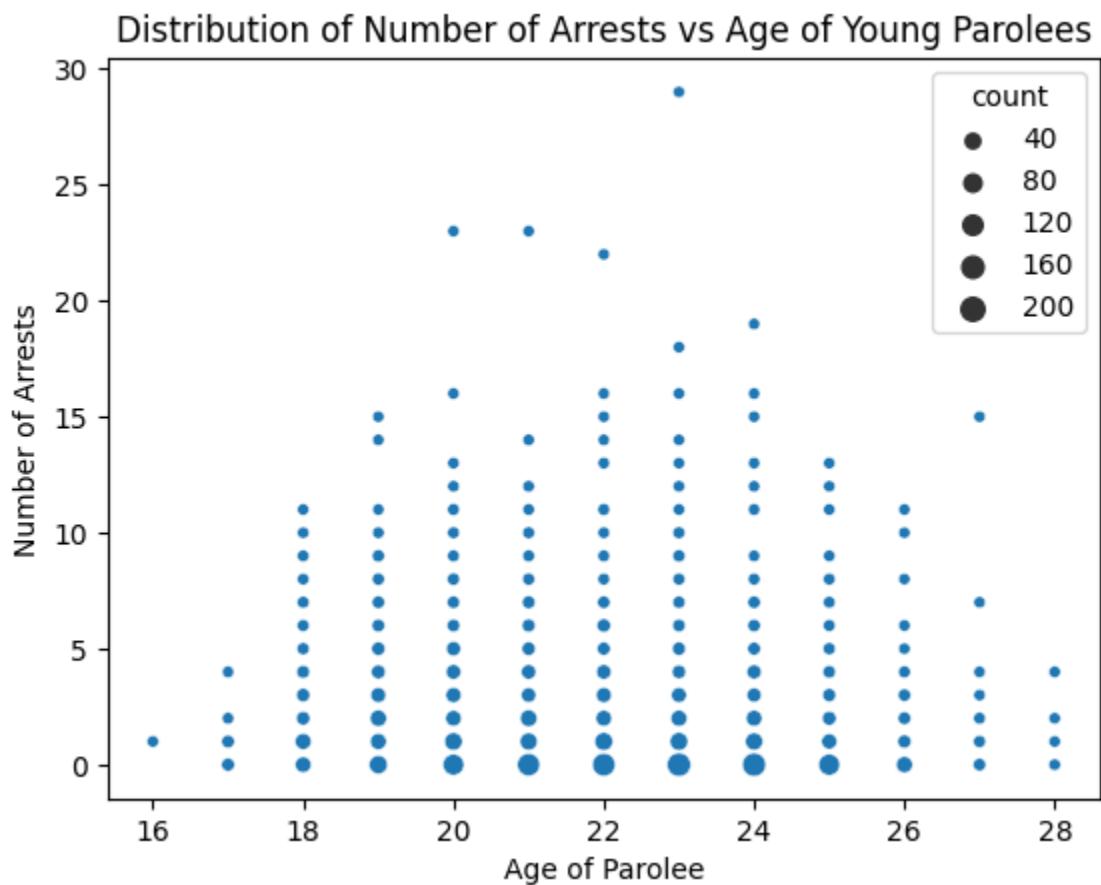


Dataset 2 [Figure 1]: Count of crimes committed by type.

Dataset 3

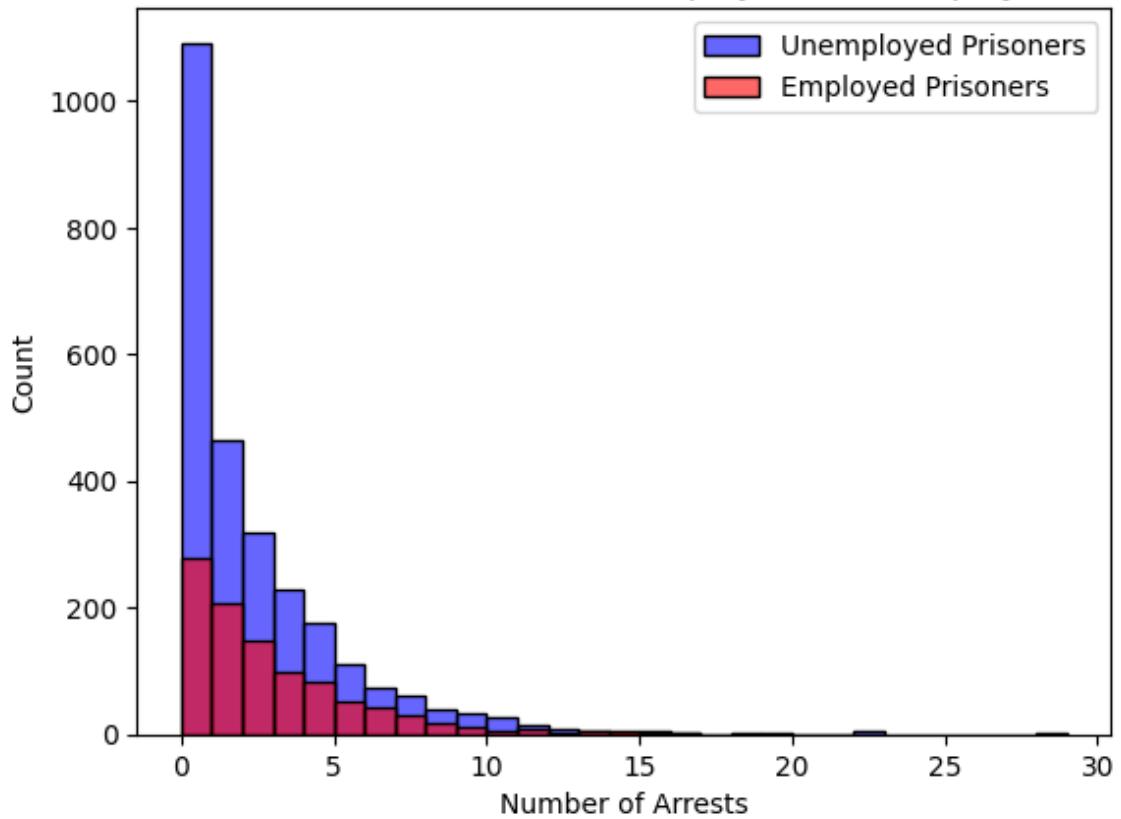
Piquero, Alex R., Brame, Robert, Mazerolle, Paul, and Haapanen, Rudy A. *Continuity and Change in Criminal Offending by California Youth Authority Parolees Released 1965-1984*. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2005-11-04. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR03136.v1>

This study examines young offenders and their lives after being released from the CYA (California Youth Authority). It has several different variables, such as number of arrests, drug use, relationship status, employment status, and other variables that could give insight into whether or not they are likely to commit crimes in the future.



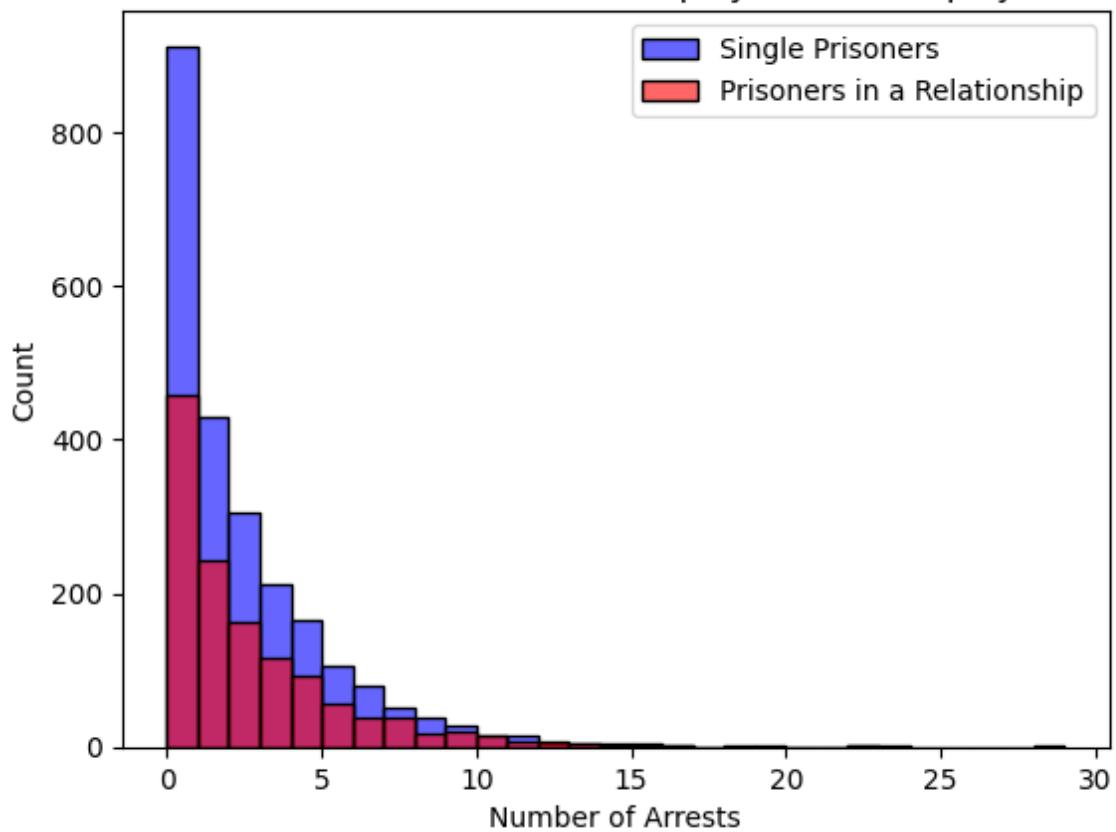
Dataset 3 [Figure 1]: The graph shows the number of arrests by age of parolee and the size of the dot denotes how many parolees in that age group have that number of arrests.

Distribution of Number of Arrests for Employed vs Unemployed Prisoners



Dataset 3 [Figure 2]: This graph compares the number of arrests between unemployed and employed prisoners.

Distribution of Number of Arrests for Employed vs Unemployed Prisoners



Dataset 3 [Figure 3]: This graph compares the number of arrests between single prisoners and prisoners in relationships.

Data Challenges

Most of the public recidivism studies only offer datasets in SPSS, SAS, and Stata file formats. This means that they cannot be opened in Microsoft Excel and must be converted into another format. The SPSS and SAS file types are only able to be used in paid software. However, it is possible to use Python Pandas to convert them into a CSV or other format. To do this, create an ipynb file (in Jupyter or Google Colab), and then run the following commands (this example converts Stata files):



```
import pandas as pd  
data = pd.io.stata.read_stata('path/example.dta')  
data.to_csv('path/convertedexample.csv')
```

Data Challenges [image 1]: This code shows the easiest way to convert Stata files to CSV files without using Stata's paid software.

Another difficulty that was encountered when attempting to analyze the data was the column titles in any dataset from NACJD. When downloading the datasets, most, if not all of them come with a codebook pdf. This codebook goes into detail about what the dataset is about, and then what the variables mean. When trying to analyze a dataset, the codebook is necessary to see what the column variables mean. For example, when looking at the 2016 United States Survey of Prison Inmates, the columns were titled V0001, V0002, V0003, etc., which continued for over 2,000 columns. This can get tedious when trying to find a specific variable, so for datasets like the US Survey of Prison Inmates, it is necessary to spend a bit of time looking for the variables in the codebook before going to the data.

Citing Studies

Proper citation ensures that research data can be: discovered, reused, replicated for verification, credited for recognition, and tracked to measure usage and impact. Citing data is straightforward.

The NACJD offers citations generated by the Metadata that adhere to the standards of citation. Each citation from NACJD must include the basic elements that allow a unique dataset to be identified over time. The image below indicates the citation and other related information, typically being found in the middle of the page with the study being researched.

Improper citation could be considered plagiarism and is an unethical practice. A proper citation includes the information mentioned in the bullet point below:

- Author, Title, Distributor, Date, Version, Persistent Identifier (e.g., Digital Object Identifier, Uniform Resource Name URN, or Handle System)

At A Glance Data & Documentation Variables Data-related Publications Export Metadata

Project Description

Summary This data collection was designed to estimate the extent and variation of individual offending by crime type, race, age, and prior criminal record. Included in this collection are the criminal records of individuals aged 16 years or older who were arrested in the state of New York. Two separate data files are supplied. Part 1 contains data on all adults arrested in New York from 1972 to 1976 for rape, murder, robbery, aggravated assault, or burglary. Part 2 includes data on all adults arrested for larceny or auto theft in Albany and Erie counties. Variables include items such as sex, race, age, number of prior arrests, date and place of arrest, arrest charged, number of multiple counts, court disposition of charges, and type and length of sentence.

Citation Blumstein, Alfred, and Cohen, Jacqueline. Adult Criminal Careers in New York, 1972-1983. [distributor], 2006-01-12. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR09353.v1>

Export Citation:

- RIS (generic format for RefWorks, EndNote, etc.)
- EndNote

Notes

The public-use data files in this collection are available for access by the general public. Access does not require affiliation with an ICPSR member institution.

423
Downloads *
[Usage Report](#)
* post three years

10
[Data-related Publications](#)

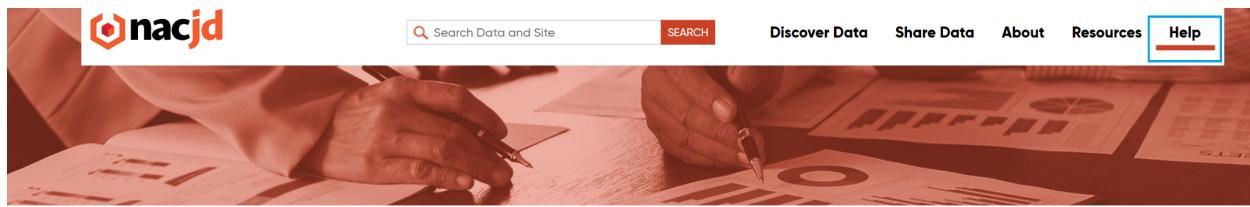
Importance of Citations and Properly Citing [Image 1]: 'Citation and Export Citation' section of a study page on the NACJD website. Seen above is the citation for this particular study that can be copied and pasted into other documents, with additional multiple ways to export citations through RIS or EndNote.

If a citation or exportation of a citation is not available in the study, below are some examples of proper citations:

- Barnes, Samuel H. Italian Mass Election Survey. 1968. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 1992-02-16. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR07953.v1>
- Schneider, Barbara, and Waite, Linda J. The 500 Family Study [1998-2000: United States]. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2008-06-03. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR04549.v1>
- Federal Judicial Center. Judicial District Data Book, 1983: [United States]. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2006-01-18. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR08439.v1>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Many resources online provide space on their platform where important information related to numerous topics is shared to clarify questions and uncertainties that may arise while navigating the resource. The NACJD website offers this helpful section under their '*Help*' tab towards the top of the page. The image below highlights (in blue) the tab to click on and shows what can be found on the '*Help*' page.



Help

Most Frequently Asked Questions

[The NACJD dataset I wish to analyze is restricted. What do I have to do to get the data?](#)

[Can I work with a co-investigator from a different institution?](#)

[There are no setup files available for my dataset. How do I create a setup file?](#)

[I have an existing data use agreement but am changing institutions. Can I still access the data?](#)

[Why and how should I cite data?](#)

▼ Restricted Data

Questions about restricted and sensitive data

▼ Access

Questions about login, password, data access, and data downloads

Can't find your answer?

[FREE USER SUPPORT](#)

[1-734-647-2200](#)

ICPSR-help@umich.edu

User support staff are available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., EST, Monday to Friday. Contact us if you cannot find the answer to your question on this site. Our goal is to respond to inquiries on the same day they are received. Many of our most frequently asked questions are available as tutorials or webinars on YouTube and are always accessible.

Contact NACJD

To contact members of the NACJD team use the information below. Physical data deposits should be sent to the mail or shipping addresses provided.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) [Image 1]: 'Help' page on the NACJD website. Users can navigate here if they have any questions to see if they have been answered previously or need information on how to contact the team at ICPSR.

Users can find questions that are asked the most by users along with appropriate answers. ICPSR and NACJD provide contact information for users to ask questions if it is not addressed in the sections supplied. If the user has any questions that we may not have addressed directly in this user guide they can peruse the 'Help' page.

Future Improvements

After analyzing the site and datasets, there are some areas in which the site could be improved. In the 'Discover Data' webpage, which gives the user options to filter for subjects of studies, file formats of datasets, whether the datasets are public or restricted, etc., the page only allows users to filter down to one choice in each category. For example, if someone wanted to look for datasets that only came in the format of Stata or SAS, they would have to do two separate searches for each of the formats. A simple solution to this would be making the filtering options checkboxes instead of radio buttons (a circle to fill in). Another improvement that could be made to the ICPSR or NACJD website is to have a tab dedicated directly to contact information or FAQs. Most modern online resources have tabs that are labeled 'Contact Us' or 'FAQs' as opposed to the 'Help' tab towards the top of the NACJD website. Implementing these tabs could improve the experience of users on the website by being more direct about what information can be found after clicking the tab.

Glossary Terms

AAHRPP (Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Program, Inc.) - The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Program promotes higher-quality research through an accreditation process that helps organizations worldwide strengthen their human research protection programs (HRPPs). They were founded in 2001 and are an independent, non-profit accrediting body driven by peers, using elaborate education models to ensure that HRPPs meet rigorous standards for quality and protection.

ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) - A standard data-encoding format for electronic communication between computers and was first used by IBM in 1981. ASCII works by assigning standard numerical values to letters, numerals, punctuation marks, and other characters used in computers in the form of seven-digit binary numbers (0s and 1s).

Consortium - A group made up of two or more individuals, companies, organizations, or governments that work together to achieve a common objective. Entities that participate in a consortium pool resources but are otherwise only responsible for the obligations that are set out in the consortium's agreement.

ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research) - The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, established in 1962, is an international consortium of more than 750 academic institutions and research organizations. They provide leadership and training in data access, curation, and methods of analysis for the social science research community.

IRB (Institutional Review Board) - Institutional Review Boards review research studies to ensure that they comply with applicable regulations, meet commonly accepted ethical standards, follow institutional policies, and adequately protect research participants.

Megan's Law - Megan's Law was created and named in response to the murder of Megan Kanka and is a federal law signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1996 as a subsection of the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act. It is the name for a federal law and an informal name for subsequent state laws requiring law enforcement authorities to make information available to the public regarding registered sex offenders.

NACJD (National Archive of Criminal Justice Data) - The National Archive of Criminal Justice Data was established in 1978 and is monitored through ICPSR. Including over 3,100 curated studies or statistical data series, it serves the purpose of archiving and disseminating data on crime and justice for secondary analysis.

Open Data - Data that is openly accessible, exploitable, editable, and shared by anyone for any purpose, subject only to the requirement to attribute it to the source. Open data is licensed under an open license. Includes non-sensitive information that is publicly available and cannot be used to identify an individual.

PhD (Doctorate of Philosophy) - The highest level of college education that can be achieved. A PhD is an academic degree focused on original research, data analysis, and the evaluation of theory.

R - A data type that contains scripts written in the R language. These files are easier to open and read with the R Studio application. Using the R language along with the R Studio application, data analyses can be performed.

Recidivism - One of the most fundamental concepts in criminal justice. Recidivism refers to a person's relapse into criminal behavior, often after the person receives sanctions or undergoes intervention for a previous crime.

Restricted Data - Data that is at a second classification level and may not be accessed without specific authorization and only selective access may be granted. Includes sensitive information that can be used to identify individuals and improper use could breach their privacy.

SAS (Statistical Analysis Software) - An analytic software where files contain texts or databases that can be read by the SAS Universal Viewer. SAS Universal Viewer is free software distributed by SAS.

SPSS (Statistical Product and Service Solutions) - A software suite created by the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), allowing users to host databases and complete data analyses. Data can be viewed in a spreadsheet (similar to Microsoft Excel) without the ability to use formulas.

Stata - A software application created by StataCorp. Users can view and edit data in spreadsheets and then run analyses on these datasets.

TSV (Tab Separated Values) - A type of data file with data separated by the tab character. This allows the user to open it with Notepad to read. Using an application like Microsoft Excel allows the user to see the data in the spreadsheet format and allows for visualizations or analyses.

USDOJ (United States Department of Justice) - Established in 1870, the Department of Justice is headed by the Attorney General of the United States. The Department of Justice enforces federal laws, seeks just punishment for the guilty, and ensures the fair and impartial administration of justice, including all criminal prosecutions and civil suits in which the United States has an interest.