
**Police Departments, Arrests and Crime in the
United States, 1860-1920**

Eric Monkkonen

ICPSR 7708

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POLICE DEPARTMENTS, ARRESTS, AND CRIME
IN THE U.S., 1860-1920

(ICPSR 7708)

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DATA DISCLAIMER

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Study Description

These data on nineteenth and early twentieth century police departments and arrest behavior were collected between 1975 and 1978 by Eric Monkkonen for a study of police and crime in the United States. Two of the datasets report time series data on 23 American cities for the period 1860-1920. The data, which are present for most but not all of the years in this time span, were drawn from annual reports of police departments found in the Library of Congress or in newspapers and legislative reports located elsewhere. Variables in the raw data file include arrests for drunkenness, conditional offenses and homicides, persons dismissed or held, police personnel and population. The second file aggregates by year and reports some of these variables on a per capita basis using a linear interpolation from the last decadal census to estimate population.

Data for 267 U.S. cities for the period 1880-1890 are from the 1880 federal census volume, REPORT ON THE DEFECTIVE, DEPENDENT, AND DELINQUENT CLASSES, published in 1888 and from the 1890 federal census volume SOCIAL STATISTICS OF CITIES. Information includes police personnel and expenditures, arrests, persons held overnight, trains entering town and population.

"Raw Data From 23 U.S. Cities, 1860-1920" contains 1179 cases (one case per city per year) and 14 variables (Class II); "Aggregated U.S. Cities, 1860-1920" contains 61 cases (one per year) and 9 variables (Class II); and "U.S. Cities, 1880-1890" contains 267 cases and 15 variables (Class III).

Related Publications:

Monkkonen, E., "Toward a Dynamic Theory of Crime and the Police: A Criminal Justice Systems Perspective", HISTORICAL METHODS NEWSLETTER, Fall, 1977, pp. 157-165

Monkkonen, E., "Sources for Criminal Justice History", JOURNAL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY HISTORY, Winter, 1978, pp. 451-464

II

File Structure

POLICE DEPARTMENTS, ARRESTS, AND CRIME IN THE U.S., 1860-1920 is available from the ICPSR as three data files.

"Raw Data from 23 U.S. Cities, 1860-1920" has a logical record length of 62 columns. There are 14 variables on 1,179 cases. For "U.S. Cities, 1880-1890" the logical record length is 61 columns and there are 15 variables on 267 cases. For "Aggregated U.S. Cities, 1860-1920", the data file has a logical record length of 48 columns and there are 9 variables on 61 cases.

Besides the three data files, a machine-readable codebook, and SPSS and SAS data definition statements have been prepared for this collection. The SPSS data definition statement file contains five statements: data list, variable labels, value labels, missing values, and missing value recode statements. The SAS data definition statement file contains five statements: proc format, input, label, format and missing value recode statements.

III

ICPSR Processing Information

The study was processed according to the standard ICPSR processing procedures. The data were checked for illegal or inconsistent codes which, when found, were corrected after consultation with the principal investigators. Throughout the text additional comments, bracketed in "<" and ">" signs, were inserted by the processors in the course of preparing the codebook for explanatory purposes.

IV

Codebook Information

The example below is a reproduction of information appearing in a machine readable codebook for a typical variable. The numbers in brackets do not appear in the codebook but are references to the descriptions which follow this example.

```
.....
[1] VAR 0001   [2] CITY ID AND POP RANK           [3] MD=99
    REF 0001   [4] LOC 1      WIDTH 2
                                [5] IMP DEC=X

    [6] City Identification and Population Rank
    -----

    [7] City identifier and its rank in population in 1880.

           [8]   [9]
           1.   New York
           2.   Philadelphia
           3.   Brooklyn
.....
```

1. Indicates the variable and reference numbers. A variable and a reference number are assigned to each item in the study. In this codebook which documents the archived dataset these numbers are identical. Should the data be subsetting or rearranged the variable numbers would change to reflect the order of the new data collection. The reference number would remain unchanged and correspond to those in this codebook describing the archived data collection.
2. Indicates the abbreviated (24 character maximum) variable label used to identify each variable. An expanded version of the variable can be found in the Variable Description List.

3. Indicates the designation of missing data. In this example code values equal to 99 are missing data (MD=99). Alternative statements for other variables are "MD=0 OR GE 9", "MD GE 9", or "NO MISSING DATA CODES".

Some analysis software packages require that certain types of data which the user desires to be excluded from analysis be designated as "missing data" e.g., inappropriate, unascertained, unascertainable, or ambiguous data categories. Although this value is defined as within the missing data category, this does not mean that the user should not or cannot use this code value in a substantive role if so desired.

4. Indicates the sequential location and width of this variable within the record. In this example the variable named "CITY ID AND POP RANK" is two columns wide and located in the 1st column within the dataset.
5. A variable containing data with implied decimals is denoted by the message, "IMP DEC=X", where X is the number of decimal places implied in the variable.
6. Indicates the full text of the variable description supplied by the original collector of the data.
7. Indicates an additional comment or explanation appended to the variable description.
8. Indicates the code values occurring in the data for this variable.
9. Indicates the textual definitions of the codes.

Variable Description List:
Raw Data from 23 U.S. Cities, 1860-1920

Var.
No.

1. City Identification and Population Rank
2. Year Data Collected
3. Total Arrests
4. Arrests for Drunkenness Related Offenses
5. Arrests for Personal Condition Offenses
6. Homicide Arrests
7. Persons Dismissed
8. Total Police Personnel
9. Patrol Officers
10. Annual Number of Lodgers
11. Population

ICPSR Processing Variables

12. ICPSR Study Number - 7708
13. ICPSR Part Number - 1
14. ICPSR Version Number - 2

VII

Variable Description List: U.S. Cities, 1880-1890

Var.
No.

1. City Name
2. Regional Code
3. Number of Police Officers on Patrol
4. Ratio of Police Officers to 1880 Population
5. Average Annual Number of Patrol Officers, 1880-1890
6. Average Total Annual Arrests, 1880-1890
7. Average Total Annual Lodgers, 1880-1890
8. Total Arrests in 1880
9. City Population in 1880
10. Average Annual Police Expenditure, 1880-1890
11. Number of Railroads Entering Town, 1890
12. Daily Number of Trains Entering Town, 1890

ICPSR Processing Variables

13. ICPSR Study Number - 7708
14. ICPSR Part Number - 2
15. ICPSR Version Number - 2

VIII

Variable Description List:
Aggregated U.S. Cities, 1860-1920

Var.
No.

1. Year of Aggregation
2. Arrests Per Capita
3. Arrests Made on Police Initiative Per Capita
4. Total Police Personnel Per Capita
5. Lodgers Per Capita
6. All Homicide Arrests Per Capita

ICPSR Processing Variables

7. ICPSR Study Number - 7708
8. ICPSR Part Number - 3
9. ICPSR Version Number - 2

RAW DATA FROM 23 U.S. CITIES, 1880 - 1890

VAR 0012 ICPSR STUDY NUMBER NO MISSING DATA CODES
 REF 0012 LOC 57 WIDTH 4

ICPSR Study Number - 7708

.....
 VAR 0013 ICPSR PART NUMBER NO MISSING DATA CODES
 REF 0013 LOC 61 WIDTH 1

ICPSR Part Number - 1

.....
 VAR 0014 ICPSR EDITION NUMBER NO MISSING DATA CODES
 REF 0014 LOC 62 WIDTH 1

ICPSR Version Number - 1

.....
 VAR 0001 CITY ID AND POP RANK MD=99
 REF 0001 LOC 1 WIDTH 2

City Identification and Population Rank

City identifier and its rank in population in 1880.

01. New York, New York
02. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
03. Brooklyn, New York (Brooklyn's municipal government merged with New York City's after 1896; thus, the annual arrests for Brooklyn after this year have been incorporated in those for New York City)
04. Chicago, Illinois
05. Boston, Massachusetts

(CONTINUED)

06. St. Louis, Missouri
07. Baltimore, Maryland
08. Cincinnati, Ohio
09. San Francisco, California
10. New Orleans, Louisiana
11. Cleveland, Ohio
13. Buffalo, New York
14. Washington, D.C.
15. Newark, New Jersey
16. Louisville, Kentucky
18. Detroit, Michigan
19. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
20. Providence, Rhode Island
22. Rochester, New York
23. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
25. Richmond, Virginia
26. New Haven, Connecticut
27. Lowell, Massachusetts

```
.....
VAR 0002      YEAR DATA COLLECTED                      MD=9999
REF 0002      LOC      3 WIDTH  4
```

Year

Year for which data are collected.

```
.....
VAR 0003      TOTAL ARRESTS                              MD=9999999
REF 0003      LOC      7 WIDTH  8
```

Total Arrests

Actual number coded.

```
.....
VAR 0004      DRUNK RELATED ARRESTS                      MD=9999999
REF 0004      LOC      15 WIDTH  6
```

Arrests for Drunkenness

Actual number coded. Includes related offenses such as
disorderly conduct.

VAR 0005	PERSONAL CONDITION ARR	MD=999999
REF 0005	LOC 21 WIDTH 6	

Arrests for Personal Condition Offenses

Actual number coded. Includes related offenses such as
vagrancy and suspicion.

VAR 0006	HOMICIDE ARRESTS	MD=999
REF 0006	LOC 27 WIDTH 3	

Arrests for All Homicides

Actual number coded. Includes negligent homicide.

VAR 0007	PERSONS DISMISSED	MD=99999
REF 0007	LOC 30 WIDTH 5	

Persons Dismissed Without Further Processing

Actual number coded.

VAR 0008	TOT POLICE PERSONNEL	MD=99999
REF 0008	LOC 35 WIDTH 5	

Total Police Personnel

Actual number coded.

```
.....
```

VAR 0010	ANNUAL NUMBER OF LODGERS	MD=999999
REF 0010	LOC 44 WIDTH 6	

[illegible]

Actual number coded. Interdecadal years were estimated by linear interpolation.

U.S. CITIES, 1880 - 1890

```

.....
VAR 0013      ICPSR STUDY NUMBER      NO MISSING DATA CODES
REF 0013      LOC    56 WIDTH  4

```

ICPSR Study Number - 7708

```

.....
VAR 0014      ICPSR PART NUMBER      NO MISSING DATA CODES
REF 0014      LOC    60 WIDTH  1

```

ICPSR Part Number - 2

```

.....
VAR 0015      ICPSR EDITION NUMBER      NO MISSING DATA CODES
REF 0015      LOC    61 WIDTH  1

```

ICPSR Version Number - 1

```

.....
VAR 0001      CITY NAME      NO MISSING DATA CODES
REF 0001      LOC    1 WIDTH  5

```

City Name

First five letters of city name.

```

.....
VAR 0002      REGIONAL CODE      MD=9
REF 0002      LOC    6 WIDTH  1

```

Regional Code

1. Northeast
2. Southeast
3. Midwest
4. West

VAR 0003	NO POL OFFICER ON PATROL	MD=9999
REF 0003	LOC 7 WIDTH 4	

Number of Police Officers on Patrol, 1880

Actual number coded.

VAR 0004	RATIO PATROL OFF TO POP	MD=999
REF 0004	LOC 11 WIDTH 3	

Ratio of Patrol Officers to 1890 Population

Ratio coded.

VAR 0005	AVG ANNUAL PATROL OFF	MD=9999
REF 0005	LOC 14 WIDTH 4	

Average Annual Number of Patrol Officers, 1880-1890

Average coded.

VAR 0006	AVG TOT ANNUAL ARRESTS	MD=99999
REF 0006	LOC 18 WIDTH 5	

Average Total Annual Arrests, 1880-1890

Average coded.

VAR 0007	AVG TOT ANNUAL LODGERS	MD=999999
REF 0007	LOC 23 WIDTH 6	

Average Total Annual Lodgers, 1880-1890

Average coded.

VAR 0008 TOTAL ARRESTS 1880 MD=9999999
 REF 0008 LOC 29 WIDTH 6

Total Arrests in 1880

Actual number coded.

VAR 0009 CITY POPULATION IN 1880 MD=9999999
 REF 0009 LOC 35 WIDTH 8

City Population in 1880

Actual number coded.

.....
 VAR 0010 AVG ANN POLICE EXPEND MD=9999999
 REF 0010 LOC 43 WIDTH 7

Average Annual Police Expenditure, 1880-1890

Average coded.

.....
 VAR 0011 NO RR LINES ENTER TOWN MD=99
 REF 0011 LOC 50 WIDTH 2

Number of Railroad Lines Entering City in 1890

Actual number coded.

.....
 VAR 0012 NO TRAINS ENTER PER DAY MD=9999
 REF 0012 LOC 52 WIDTH 4

Daily number of trains entering city in 1890

Actual number coded

AGGREGATED U.S. CITIES, 1860 - 1920

```

.....
VAR 0007      ICPSR STUDY NUMBER      NO MISSING DATA CODES
REF 0007      LOC    43 WIDTH  4

```

ICPSR Study Number - 7708

```

.....
VAR 0008      ICPSR PART NUMBER      NO MISSING DATA CODES
REF 0008      LOC    47 WIDTH  1

```

ICPSR Part Number - 3

```

.....
VAR 0009      ICPSR VERSION NUMBER      NO MISSING DATA CODES
REF 0009      LOC    48 WIDTH  1

```

ICPSR Version Number - 1

```

.....
VAR 0001      YEAR OF AGGREGATION      MD=9999
REF 0001      LOC    1 WIDTH  4

```

Year of Aggregation

Year for which data were collected.

```

.....
VAR 0002      ARRESTS PER CAPITA      MD=9999999
REF 0002      LOC    5 WIDTH  8

```

Arrests Per Capita

Number coded to seven decimal places or millionths.

VAR 0003 ARRESTS ON POLICE INIT MD=9999999
 REF 0003 LOC 13 WIDTH 8

Arrests Made on Police Initiative Per Capita

Number coded to seven decimal places or millionths. These arrests are mainly drunkenness related, but also include arrests for vagrancy, suspicion, and other personal conditions.

.....
 VAR 0004 TOT POLICE PER CAPITA MD=9999999
 REF 0004 LOC 21 WIDTH 7

Total Police Personnel Per Capita

Number coded to seven decimal places or millionths.

.....
 VAR 0005 LODGERS PER CAPITA MD=9999999
 REF 0005 LOC 28 WIDTH 8

Lodgers Per Capita

Number coded to seven decimal places or millionths.

.....
 VAR 0006 HOMICIDE ARRESTS PER CAP MD=9999999
 REF 0006 LOC 36 WIDTH 7

All Homicide Arrests Per Capita

Number coded to ten decimal places or billionths.