<http://ire.org/events-and-training/event/2702/2926/>

Barnaby Skinner, Tages-Anzeiger & SonntagsZeitung

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Cheryl Phillips, Stanford

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Robert:

Started with anecdotal stories about Rikers and violence and mental health

Once ppl die in prison, little investigations

Filed FOIAs for inmate discipline.

Investigation of prison break showed negligence with guards; showed that white, charming inmates were able to get away with a lot. Seduced a female supervisor guard, buddies with other guards. Led to escape.

Data:

* master roster of past and present inmates (easy to get)
* Database of inmate disciplinary punishments for 2015 (hard to get)
* Three years of parole board decisions
* Paper reports on hundreds of “assault on staff” incidents
* Transcripts of more than 100 parole board hearings

Analysis:

* Individual datasets were good, joined datasets were better. Disciplinary data did not have name, age, etc. Only had ID number. So joined that with master roster with IDs and other characteristics.
* Looked at a crime rate table broken down by age, race, # of inmates, tickets, and then check the differences to see what variable influences other variables.
* Looked at individual facilities. Have to look at individual institutions, not system wide.
* Looked at disparity in punishments (solitary confinement)
* Looked at “disobeying orders” violations—which was the most vague
* Had to write a scraper for parole decisions to get them from the website.

<https://github.com/gebelo>

<https://github.com/gebelo/training2017>

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Michael Braga

Broke down sentencing data by judge.

Two databases:

1. Offender-based transaction system- lots of duplicates (had to get help from Tampa Bay Times to get rid of the duplicates to make the database manageable); wasn’t always sure you’re comparing apples to apples in terms of people's’ sentencing. So had to use Dept of Corrections database
2. Department of corrections data - less duplicates and included points for sentencing. Needed enough cases to have comparisons across races controlled for crime & points, so had to use point ranges.

19 other states use the OBTS system. You have to ask for it. Some of the fields will be hashed out. - Georgia\*\*\*

Story Ideas:

Defenders who violate probation can end up with crazy jail time.

Compare outcomes for private attorneys and public defenders.

See which judges are most lenient when it comes to DUI or harsh on drug crimes.

Look at the data for sex crimes.

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Barnaby- Swiss Asylum Lottery

* In Switzerland, anybody can take their trial to the Supreme Court. A separate Swiss Administrative Supreme Court deals with administrative cases.
* Every Judge has a party affiliation (6 major parties)
* Lawyers were saying judges from right-wing parties are much tougher on migrants.
* Verdicts are published online- looked at all 30,000 verdicts regarding migrant cases; had to scrape the website. Came back well-formatted and in 3 languages.
* Went to analyze the verdicts. Github here: <https://github.com/barjacks/swiss-asylum-judges>
* Used regular expressions, pandas and glob
* Found patterns by party in judge verdicts