

ICPSR 2433

## National Prosecutors Survey, 1996

Description

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## **Bibliographic Description**

ICPSR Study No.: 2433

Title: National Prosecutors Survey, 1996

Principal Investigator(s): United States Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics

Series: National Prosecutors Survey Series

Funding Agency: United States Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics

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## **Scope of Study**

Summary: The National Survey of Prosecutors is a biennial survey of chief prosecutors in state court systems. A chief prosecutor is an official, usually locally elected and typically with the title of district attorney or county attorney, who is in charge of a prosecutorial district made up of one or more counties, and who conducts or supervises the prosecution of felony cases in a state court system. Prosecutors in courts of limited jurisdiction, such as municipal prosecutors, were not included in the survey. The survey's purpose was to obtain detailed descriptive information on prosecutors' offices, as well as information on their policies and practices. The data collection instrument was based on questions that were included in the NATIONAL PROSECUTORS SURVEY, 1994 (ICPSR 6785), and also added queries on topics of current concern. Variables cover staffing, workload, funding, what type of computer access the office had, whether the office was part of an integrated computerized system with other specific criminal agencies, the use of DNA evidence in plea negotiations of felony trials, which laboratories performed these DNA analyses, juvenile matters, and risks associated with the role of the prosecutor, such as threatening letters or calls, face-to-face assaults, or batter/assaults. The unit of analysis is the district office.

Subject Term(s): attorneys, case processing, criminal investigations, district attorneys, DNA fingerprinting, evidence, felony courts, felony offenses, juvenile courts, personnel, plea negotiations, policies and procedures, prosecuting

attorneys, prosecution, sentencing, state courts, training, treatment programs, trial procedures, victim services

Geographic Coverage: United States

Time Period: • January 1, 1996 - December 31, 1996

Date(s) of Collection: • June 1997 - August 1997

Universe: Prosecutorial districts in the United States, usually consisting entirely of one county.

Data Type: survey data

Data Collection Notes: Conducted by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

## Methodology

Sample: A list of all prosecutorial districts that handled felony cases was compiled by the Bureau of the Census from the approximately 3,100 counties and independent cities in the United States (total 2,343). The list consisted of 2,343 prosecutorial districts, 1992 population figures, and 1992 Uniform Crime Reports Part I adult arrest data by county. From this file the Census Bureau drew a stratified systematic sample. The 2,343 prosecutorial districts were grouped into 6 strata, depending on the number of Part I adult arrests in 1992. Within each stratum, districts were systematically selected for the sample. A sample of 308 districts was chosen that is expected to yield a coefficient of variation of about 2 percent for variables correlated with population and arrests. A questionnaire was mailed to the chief prosecutor of each district.

Data Source: self-enumerated questionnaires, and telephone interviews for offices not initially reported

Extent of Processing: Performed recodes and/or calculated derived variables.

Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

## Access and Availability

Note: A list of the data formats available for this study can be found in the [summary of holdings](#). Detailed file-level information (such as record length, case count, and variable count) is listed in the [file manifest](#).

**Restrictions:** A downloadable version of data for this study is available however, certain identifying information in the downloadable version may have been masked or edited to protect respondent privacy. Additional data not included in the downloadable version are available in a restricted version of this data collection. For more information about the differences between the downloadable data and the restricted data for this study, please refer to the codebook notes section of the PDF codebook. Users interested in obtaining restricted data must complete and sign a Restricted Data Use Agreement, describe the research project and data protection plan, and obtain IRB approval or notice of exemption for their research.

**Original ICPSR Release:** 1998-11-16

**Version History:** The last update of this study occurred on 2005-11-04.

2005-11-04 - On 2005-03-14 new files were added to one or more datasets. These files included additional setup files as well as one or more of the following: SAS program, SAS transport, SPSS portable, and Stata system files. The metadata record was revised 2005-11-04 to reflect these additions.

**Dataset(s):** • DS1: National Prosecutors Survey, 1996