

ICPSR 4600

## National Prosecutors Survey, 2005

Description

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## **Bibliographic Description**

ICPSR Study No.: 4600

Title: National Prosecutors Survey, 2005

Alternate Title: National Survey of Prosecutors, 2005

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 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, 2005 - December 31, 2005

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: The sampling frame, consisting of 2,400 prosecutorial districts that handle felony cases, was compiled by the Bureau of the Census, along with the 2004 population figures. From this file the Census Bureau drew a stratified systematic sample. The 2,400 prosecutorial districts were grouped into 5 strata, based solely on the population parameters. Within each stratum, districts were systematically selected for the sample. A sample of 310 districts was chosen that is expected to yield a coefficient variation of about 2 percent for variables correlated with population and arrests. A questionnaire was mailed to the chief prosecutor of each district, of which 307 responded.

Mode of Data Collection: self-enumerated questionnaire

telephone interview

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](#).

Original ICPSR Release: 2007-01-17

Version History: The last update of this study occurred on 2007-02-23.

2007-02-23 - An error in the codebook has been corrected.

Dataset(s): • DS1: National Prosecutors Survey, 2005