

ICPSR 6785

## National Prosecutors Survey, 1994

### Description

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## **Bibliographic Description**

ICPSR Study No.: 6785

Title: National Prosecutors Survey, 1994

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, 1992 (ICPSR 6273), and also added queries on topics of current concern, including: cross-designation of state prosecutors to try cases in federal court, juvenile transfers to criminal court, personal liability insurance for prosecutors, and involvement with community-based drug abuse programs. Variables include whether certain categories of felony prosecution, such as gangs, hate crimes, domestic violence, stalking, fraud, or child abuse or abduction were handled, whether DNA evidence, videotape, expert or child witnesses, polygraph tests, or wiretap evidence were used in trials, types of intermediate sanctions used, including house arrest, electronic monitoring, work release, substance abuse rehabilitation or therapy, community service, and fines or restitution, information on problem cases, personal risks associated with the role of the prosecutor, civil actions against prosecutors, criminal defense of indigent offenders,

staffing, workload, funding, whether the defendant's criminal history was used in trials, juvenile matters, relationships with victims and other persons aiding prosecution, computerization, and community leadership. The unit of analysis is the district office.

Subject Term(s): attorneys, case processing, district attorneys, evidence, felony courts, felony offenses, juvenile courts, plea negotiations, policies and procedures, prosecuting attorneys, prosecution, sentencing, state courts, treatment programs, trial procedures

Geographic Coverage: United States

Time Period: • January 1, 1994 - December 31, 1994

Date(s) of Collection: • June 1995 - December 1995

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: 1997-02-13

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.

1998-10-28 - A section of the codebook appendix (Notes 3-38) has been modified. In each of those notes, the left column's heading was changed from "V4 - ICPSR Sequential ID Number" to "V5 - Prosecutorial District Number". Also, the ASCII codebook has been converted to a PDF file, and the PDF questionnaire is now included in the file.

Dataset(s): • DS1: National Prosecutors Survey, 1994