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Codebook for the In Our Backyards Dataset

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide detail on the sources and variables in the In Our Backyards dataset. The goal of the dataset is to provide county-level data on prison and jail incarceration and related measures over time for the entire United States.

This project uses incarceration data collected by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), supplemented with data from state sources when federal data is not available. The BJS-provided datasets we used are: the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP), which has collected individual-level data on admissions and releases since 1983; the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program: Jail Populations (DCRP), for facility-level jail population and admissions data collected annually between 2000 and 2013; the Annual Survey of Jails, which has collected jail data for a sample of counties since 1982; the Census of Jails (COJ), which provides data on all counties since its first collection in 1970; and the Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities (CAF), which has collected data on all prison facilities since 1970. In addition to incarceration data, we also include crime data collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), population estimates collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and geographic information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Data Sources

National Corrections Reporting Program

The NCRP provides detailed individual-level data on admissions and releases from state prison authorities, including county of commitment. We use the NCRP data to compute total prison population count and total prison admission count per year aggregated at the county level, as well as population and admissions estimates by race and gender.

Deaths in Custody Reporting Program Data

The Death in Custody Reporting Program contains facility-level data on jail ADP, admissions, and single day population counts for the years 2000 to 2013. We use data from the jail portion of the DCRP to compute total jail admission count, total jail population count, admissions and population estimates by race and gender, as well as total pretrial population count and pretrial population by gender for each county.

Annual Survey of Jails Data

The Annual Survey of Jails series provides annual, county-level data on jail admissions, releases, and population estimates for a sample of jurisdictions identified from the Census of Jails. ASJ data is used to estimate jail admission counts, jail population counts, population by race and gender, and pretrial population counts at the county level in years during which DCRP data is unavailable. ASJ data is also used to compare facility-level estimates from the DCRP to county-level trends to check for data errors and account for discrepancies in reporting or data collection.

Census of Jails Data

The Census of Jails series began in 1970, and is conducted every 5-8 years. It collects data from all U.S. counties. In the latest iteration of the census in 2013, 2,872 local jail jurisdictions were included. Facility-level data includes confined and non-confined population counts, confined populations by sex and race, the average daily population, and number of admissions and releases. The COJ data is aggregated at the county level and is used in combination with DCRP and ASJ to compute total jail population count, total jail admission count, as well as population and admission estimates by race and gender. The census provides the sampling frame for the ASJ.

Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities Data

The Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities series collects data on federal, state, local, and private correctional facilities identified by BJS. The CAF dataset provides detailed information on facility operations and functions, capacity, population counts, as well as characteristics of the incarcerated population. We use the CAF dataset to compute the number of facilities, the number of prison employees, the confined prison population, and the prison capacity for each county. Although several previous collections are available, we only concentrated on the most recent 2005 collection.

FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program compiles data on crimes reported to participating law enforcement agencies. Data is reported annually and is available at the agency and county level for Part I crimes. County-level reported crime counts from the UCR are used to supplement prison and jail data to provide a more comprehensive picture of incarceration.

Centers on Disease Control Data

National Vital Statistics System Data

The National Vital Statistics System dataset is collected by the National Center for Health Statistics at the CDC. The series provides detailed, county-level bridged-race data that is used to create inter-censal population estimates by gender and race at the county level for each year from 1970 to 2016. We used this data to compute the county population of people between the ages of 15 and 64 by race and gender.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Data

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service first developed Commuting Zones (CZs) and Labor Market Areas (LMAs) in the 1980s to more accurately delineate the geographic boundaries of local economies. We use the 2000 version of the CZs to provide a metric for examining geographic variation in prison and jail incarceration.

U.S. Census Bureau Data

The U.S. Census Bureau collects data using a variety of geographic delineations. Geographic entities, or statistical areas, range from regions to census blocks. We use the Census Bureau definitions of region, urban versus rural, divisions, and metropolitan areas to provide additional metrics to examine geographic variation in prison and jail incarceration. In addition, land area in square miles is included to allow the examination of population density.

Variables Descriptions

Jail Variables Description

Jail Admissions

Total jail admissions counts the number of processed admissions event in each county in a given year. Jail admissions from ASJ are based on mid-year counts, while admissions reported in the DCRP span the entire year. The DCRP data provides admission estimates by gender.

Jail Population

Jail population data is computed using the DCRP, ASJ, and COJ. Jail population is defined as the average daily number of people held in jail through December 31 of a given year. Total jail population excludes federal jails and people held in local jails for federal authorities.

Jail population estimates are disaggregated by race and gender, as well as by jurisdiction. We include five race categories: Asian, Black, Latino, Native American, and White. Race and gender estimates include individuals held under federal and other authorities. We provide the jail population count for non-local correctional authorities: State prison, other state prison, state jail, other state jail, federal facility, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Pretrial Population

Pretrial jail population estimates are computed in the same way as the total jail population estimates, but only count unsentenced people who are held in jail.

Prison Variables Description

Prison Population

Prison population is defined as the number of people sent to prison from each county. Total prison population count is based on the number of people held in prison on December 31 of a given year. We disaggregate prison population count by race and gender. We include six race categories: Asian, Black, Latino, Native American, other race, and White.

1983-1999

Only data on admissions and releases are available for the years 1983 to 1999, therefore population counts for these years are estimates. For each release in a given year from 1983 to 1999, population estimates are incremented up to the admission date for all years. Release data from 2000 to 2015 is used to find those admitted before 2000.

Special Cases

For some states, the 2000 to 2015 dataset contained records of prisoners released prior to 2000. For these states, pre-2000 estimation is limited to the years prior to the data included in the later dataset.

The NCPR data includes sentences of less than one year for some states for certain years. Records with admission and release dates that are less than one year apart are excluded for Iowa, 1983-1999; Maryland, 1989-1999; New York, 1983-1991; North Carolina, 1987-1999; and Pennsylvania, 1989-1999.

2000-2015

Population estimates for 2000 to 2015 data are incremented between the admission year and release year. For many states, the main term data file can be used without considering the extra data file. These states are: California; Iowa; Maine, 2011-2015; Maryland; Mississippi, 2010-2015; Nevada, 2004-2015; New Hampshire, 2010-2015; New Jersey, 2002-2015; New

York; North Carolina; Ohio, 2015; Oklahoma; Oregon, 2015; Pennsylvania, 2011-2015; South Dakota, 2012-2015; Tennessee; West Virginia; and Wyoming.

Prison Admissions

Total prison admissions count measures the number of times people are sent to prison from each county. For all counties, prison admissions exclude returns from court and transfers from other jurisdictions. Admissions with a sentence of less than 12 months are excluded from the figures for Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina. We disaggregate prison admissions by race and gender, and include six race categories: Asian, Black, Latino, Native American, other race, and White.

NCRP data is compared to state-level NPS data to identify and account for data errors and missing values. The combined total admissions per year for all counties within each state is compared to state-level admission totals in the NPS data to identify states that failed to report admissions figures for certain years. The missing data is interpolated at the county level within individual variables.

Prison Geography

The 2005 BJSCAF dataset was processed for four measures of prison characteristics within U.S. counties. For each county, we computed the number of prison facilities, the number of prison employees, the total confined population, and the total prison capacity.

Crime Variables Description

UCR County Population

In some counties, not all law enforcement agencies report to the UCR each year. In years with incomplete reporting, crime rates must be computed based on the proportion of the population covered by reporting agencies. We include this measure as a way of adjusting rates so they are comparable over time and across counties.

Part I Index Crimes

The total count of Part I index crimes, violent crimes, and property crimes, as well as the count of individual part I crimes is included for measuring its relationship to incarceration.

Variables

VARIABLE NAME	VARIABLE LABEL	TYPE	VALUES
GENERAL			
yfips	Concatenation of year and FIPS code: unique identifier	Numeric	Unique: 147,338 Missing: none Example: 197001001
year	Year	Numeric	Unique: 46 Missing: none Range: 1970-2015
fips	County Identification Code	Numeric	Unique: 3,203 Missing: none Example: 1001
state	State Name	String	Unique: 53 Missing: none "AK" "AL" "AR" "AZ" "CA" "CO" "CT" "DC" "DE" "FL" "GA" "HI" "IA" "ID" "IL" "IN" "KS" "KY" "LA" "MA" "MD" "ME" "MI" "MN" "MO" "MS" "MT" "NC" "ND" "NE"

			"NH" "NJ" "NM" "NV" "NY" "OH" "OK" "OR" "PA" "RI" "SC" "SD" "TN" "TX" "UNK" "US" "UT" "VA" "VT" "WA" "WI" "WV" "WY"
county_name	County Name	String	Unique: 1,936 Missing: none Duplicates: 424
DEMOGRAPHICS			
total_pop	Population Count, All Ages	Numeric	Unique: 75,443 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 10,066,615 Mean: 81,414.1 Std. dev: 296,437
total_pop_15to64	Population Count, Ages 15 to 64	Numeric	Unique: 62,925 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 6,945,770 Mean: 53,700.7 Std. dev: 199,401
female_pop_15to64	Female Population Count, Ages 15 to 64	Numeric	Unique: 46,187 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 3,482,342 Mean: 27,092.9 Std. dev: 101,414
male_pop_15to64	Male Population Count, Ages 15 to 64	Numeric	Unique: 46,901 Missing: 184

			Min: 0 Max: 3,463,428 Mean: 26,607.8 Std. dev: 98,054.4
asian_pop_15to64	Asian Population Count, Ages 15 to 64	Numeric	Unique: 8,876 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 1,050,073 Mean: 1,592.83 Std. dev: 19,239.3
black_pop_15to64	Black Population Count, Ages 15 to 64	Numeric	Unique: 21,548 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 1,533,055 Mean: 6,451.79 Std. dev: 37,973.9
latino_pop_15to64	Latino Population Count, Ages 15 to 64	Numeric	Unique: 13,909 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 3,344,754 Mean: 4,535.7 Std. dev: 52,883
native_pop_15to64	Native American Population Count, Ages 15 to 64	Numeric	Unique: 4,888 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 50,770 Mean: 273.462 Std. dev: 1,447.4
other_pop_15to64	Population Count Other Race, Ages 15 to 64	Numeric	Unique: 5,396 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 712,730 Mean: 490.964 Std. dev: 7,450.93
white_pop_15to64	White Population Count, Ages 15 to 64	Numeric	Unique: 58,712 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 4,583,859 Mean: 40,355.0 Std. dev: 120,538
GEOGRAPHY			
urbanicity	Urbanicity	String	Unique: 4 Missing: 6,210 "Large Metro, Suburban" "Large Metro, Urban" "Rural"

			"Small and Mid Metros"
region	Census Region	String	Unique: 4 Missing: 6,210 "Midwest" "Northeast" "South" "West"
division	Census Division	String	Unique: 9 Missing: 6,210 "East North Central" "East South Central" "Middle Atlantic" "Mountain" "New England" "Pacific" "South Atlantic" "West North Central" "West South Central"
commuting_zone	Commuting Zone	Numeric	Unique: 720 Missing: 6,210 Example: 11001
metro_area	Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA)	Numeric	Unique: 899 Missing: 66,148 Example: 38100
JAIL ADMISSIONS			
total_jail_adm	Total Jail Admission Count	Numeric	Unique: 15,345 Missing: 107,262 Min: 0 Max: 150,270 Mean: 3,772.07 Std. dev: 8,309.29
total_jail_adm_itp	Total Jail Admission Count, ITP Data	Numeric	Unique: none Missing 147,338
total_jail_adm_dcrp	Total Jail Admission Count, DCRP Data	Numeric	Unique: 15.345 Missing: 107,262 Min: 0 Max: 150,270 Mean: 3,772.07 Std. dev: 8,309.29
female_jail_adm	Total Jail Admission Count, Female	Numeric	Unique: 9,586 Missing: 107,527 Min: 0 Max: 34,860 Mean: 704.651 Std. dev: 1,563.09

male_jail_adm	Total Jail Admission Count, Male	Numeric	Unique: 14,311 Missing: 107,279 Min: 0 Max: 123,634 Mean: 3,067.19 Std. dev: 6,809.14
JAIL POPULATION			
total_jail_pop	Total Jail Population Count	Numeric	Unique: 20,864 Missing: 8,936 Min: 0 Max: 23,456 Mean: 140.682 Std. dev: 548.479
total_jail_pop_itp	Total Jail Population Count, ITP Data	Numeric	Unique: 22,448 Missing: 6,059 Min: 0 Max: 23,456 Mean: 143.53 Std. dev: 593.525
total_jail_pop_dcrp	Total Jail Population Count, DCRP Data	Numeric	Unique: 7,750 Missing: 107,193 Min: 0 Max: 14,265 Mean: 225.911 Std. dev: 588.697
female_jail_pop	Female Jail Population Count	Numeric	Unique: 13,852 Missing: 9,568 Min: 0 Max: 2,892 Mean: 15.327 Std. dev: 62.366
female_jail_pop_itp	Female Jail Population Count, ITP Data	Numeric	Unique: 14,312 Missing: 6,085 Min: 0 Max: 2,892 Mean: 15.846 Std. dev: 68.987
female_jail_pop_dcrp	Female Jail Population Count, DCRP Data	Numeric	Unique: 6,147 Missing: 107,799 Min: 0 Max: 1,566 Mean: 28.346 Std. dev: 69.4001
male_jail_pop	Male Jail Population Count	Numeric	Unique: 20,933 Missing: 8,962 Min: 0 Max: 21,061

			Mean: 126.747 Std. dev: 493.099
male_jail_pop_itp	Male Jail Population Count, ITP Data	Numeric	Unique: 22,340 Missing: 6,085 Min: 0 Max: 21,061 Mean: 128.67 Std. dev: 528.954
male_jail_pop_dcrp	Male Jail Population Count, DCRP Data	Numeric	Unique: 7,601 Missing: 107,193 Min: 0 Max: 13,926 Mean: 199.647 Std. dev: 529.597
asian_jail_pop	Jail Population Count, Asian	Numeric	Unique: 3,584 Missing: 6,085 Min: 0 Max: 885 Mean: 0.976 Std. dev: 10.346
black_jail_pop	Jail Population Count, Black	Numeric	Unique: 12,738 Missing: 67,425 Min: 0 Max: 10,862 Mean: 78.609 Std. dev: 357.295
latino_jail_pop	Jail Population Count, Latino	Numeric	Unique: 10,477 Missing: 67,425 Min: 0 Max: 11,293 Mean: 31.237 Std. dev: 238.894
native_jail_pop	Jail Population Count, Native American	Numeric	Unique: 5,360 Missing: 67,425 Min: 0 Max: 425 Mean: 2.072 Std. dev: 11.869
white_jail_pop	Jail Population Count, White	Numeric	Unique: 15,680 Missing: 67,425 Min: 0 Max: 7,142 Mean: 85.082 Std. dev: 210.837
total_jail_pretrial	Pretrial Jail Population Count	Numeric	Unique: 22,499 Missing: 6,069 Min: 0

			Max: 14,525 Mean: 81.940 Std. dev: 370.355
female_jail_pretrial	Pretrial Jail Population Count, Female	Numeric	Unique: 9,283 Missing: 6,078 Min: 0 Max: 1,666 Mean: 6.300 Std. dev: 35.009
male_jail_pretrial	Pretrial Jail Population Count, Male	Numeric	Unique: 18,118 Missing: 6,076 Min: 0 Max: 12,862 Mean: 54.249 Std. dev: 296.389
jail_from_state_prison	Jail Population Count, Held for State Prison	Numeric	Unique: 14,372 Missing: 6,085 Min: 0 Max: 5,862 Mean: 17.449 Std. dev: 98.4399
jail_from_other_state_prison	Jail Population Count, Held for Out-of-State Prison	Numeric	Unique: 1,763 Missing: 6,085 Min: 0 Max: 626 Mean: 0.238 Std. dev: 5.442
jail_from_state_jail	Jail Population Count, Held for State Jail	Numeric	Unique: 13,275 Missing: 6,076 Min: 0 Max: 1,850 Mean: 5.565 Std. dev: 31.299
jail_from_other_state_jail	Jail Population Count, Held for Out-Of-State Jail	Numeric	Unique: 1,537 Missing: 6,085 Min: 0 Max: 1,000 Mean: 0.247 Std. dev: 5.331
jail_from_fed	Jail Population Count, Held for Federal Authorities	Numeric	Unique: 9,365 Missing: 6,085 Min: 0 Max: 3,891 Mean: 6.838 Std. dev: 40.430
jail_from_fed_ice	Jail Population Count, Held for ICE	Numeric	Unique: 4,006 Missing: 6,085

			Min: 0 Max: 3,885 Mean: 2.511 Std. dev: 26.964
PRISON POPULATION			
total_prison_pop	Total Prison Population Count	Numeric	Unique: 8,573 Missing: 65,466 Min: 0 Max: 58,091 Mean: 371.093 Std. dev: 1,672.35
female_prison_pop	Prison Population Count, Female	Numeric	Unique: 2,362 Missing: 87,747 Min: 0 Max: 3,930 Mean: 32.221 Std. dev: 117.99
male_prison_pop	Prison Population Count, Male	Numeric	Unique: 7,675 Missing: 87,747 Min: 0 Max: 54,388 Mean: 462.048 Std. dev: 1,833.23
asian_prison_pop	Prison Population Count, Asian	Numeric	Unique: 377 Missing: 89,384 Min: 0 Max: 1,029 Mean: 1.871 Std. dev: 18.607
black_prison_pop	Prison Population Count, Black	Numeric	Unique: 5,391 Missing: 81,428 Min: 0 Max: 24,816 Mean: 201.23 Std. dev: 976.397
latino_prison_pop	Prison Population Count, Hispanic	Numeric	Unique: 2,675 Missing: 85,498 Min: 0 Max: 25,073 Mean: 70.795 Std. dev: 627.128
native_prison_pop	Prison Population Count, Native American	Numeric	Unique: 605 Missing: 85,554 Min: 0 Max: 1,141 Mean: 4.018 Std. dev: 23.324

other_prison_pop	Prison Population Count, Other Race	Numeric	Unique: none Missing: 147,338
white_prison_pop	Prison Population Count, White	Numeric	Unique: 5,608 Missing: 69,961 Min: 0 Max: 13,022 Mean: 141.043 Std. dev: 366.992
PRISON ADMISSIONS			
total_prison_adm	Total Prison Admission Count	Numeric	Unique: 4,476 Missing: 63,591 Min: 0 Max: 48,393 Mean: 190.642 Std. dev: 943.378
female_prison_adm	Prison Admission Count, Female	Numeric	Unique: 1,453 Missing: 87,406 Min: 0 Max: 4,285 Mean: 27.075 Std. dev: 109.031
male_prison_adm	Prison Admission Count, Male	Numeric	Unique: 3,998 Missing: 87,406 Min: 0 Max: 45,042 Mean: 228.733 Std. dev: 1,004.41
asian_prison_adm	Prison Admission Count, Asian	Numeric	Unique: 261 Missing: 84,685 Min: 0 Max: 5,465 Mean: 1.381 Std. dev: 37.046
black_prison_adm	Prison Admission Count, Black	Numeric	Unique: 2,847 Missing: 78,672 Min: 0 Max: 22,135 Mean: 96.577 Std. dev: 515.121
latino_prison_adm	Prison Admission Count, Latino	Numeric	Unique: 1,726 Missing: 81,583 Min: 0 Max: 14,354 Mean:36.049 Std. dev: 334.994
native_prison_adm	Prison Admission Count, Native American	Numeric	Unique: 465 Missing: 77,847

			Min: 0 Max: 2,558 Mean: 2.943 Std. dev: 32.363
other_prison_adm	Prison Admission Count, Other Race	Numeric	Unique: none Missing: 147,338
white_prison_adm	Prison Admission Count, White	Numeric	Unique: 2,917 Missing: 67,612 Min: 0 Max: 25,775 Mean: 79.2995 Std. dev: 251.126
PRISON LOCATION			
num_facilites	Number of Facilities	Numeric	Unique: 15 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 17 Mean: 0.569 Std. dev: 1.277
num_employees	Number of Employees	Numeric	Unique: 516 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 3,331 Mean: 111.902 Std. dev: 301.998
confined_pop	Total Confined Population	Numeric	Unique: 775 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 26,869 Mean: 446.176 Std. dev: 1,323.8
capacity	Total Prison Capacity	Numeric	Unique: 723 Missing: 184 Min: 0 Max: 23,907 Mean: 408.13 Std. dev: 1,176.8
CRIME			
ucr_population	Total County Population – Agencies Reporting Arrests	Numeric	Unique: 62,547 Missing: 36,292 Min: 0 Max: 10,121,502 Mean: 82,334.3 Std. dev: 302,343
index_crime	Count of Part I Index Crimes	Numeric	Unique: 15,480 Missing: 36,243 Min: 0

			Max: 735,826 Mean: 3,819.34 Std. dev: 17,840.6
violent_crime	Count of Violent Offenses	Numeric	Unique: 5,315 Missing: 36,240 Min: 0 Max: 174,630 Mean: 446.83 Std. dev: 3,197.01
property_crime	Count of Property Offenses	Numeric	Unique: 14,807 Missing: 36,243 Min: 0 Max: 578,745 Mean: 3,372.51 Std. dev: 14,852.2
murder_crime	Count of Homicide Offenses	Numeric	Unique: 498 Missing: 36,240 Min: 0 Max: 3,451 Mean: 5.820 Std. dev: 42.5
rape_crime	Count of Rape Offenses	Numeric	Unique: 1,038 Missing: 35,233 Min: 0 Max: 99,999 Mean: 844.457 Std. dev: 8,955.87
robbery_crime	Count of Robbery Offenses	Numeric	Unique: 3,067 Missing: 35,233 Min: 0 Max: 999,999 Mean: 8,320.78 Std. dev: 89,576.1
agr_assault_crime	Count of Aggravated Assault Offenses	Numeric	Unique: none Missing: 147,338
burglary_crime	Count of Burglary Offenses	Numeric	Unique: 7,476 Missing: 36,240 Min: 0 Max: 210,883 Mean: 817.517 Std. dev: 3,805.07
larceny_crime	Count of Larceny Offenses	Numeric	Unique: 12,374 Missing: 36,241 Min: 0 Max: 309,396 Mean: 2,164.49 Std. dev: 8,566.23

mv_theft_crime	Count of Motor Vehicle Theft Offenses	Numeric	Unique: 4,774 Missing: 36,241 Min: 0 Max: 147,133 Mean: 364.314 Std. dev: 2,674.48
arson_crime	Count of Arson Offenses	Numeric	Unique: 1,073 Missing: 35,335 Min: 0 Max: 99,999 Mean: 834.887 Std. dev: 8,957.99