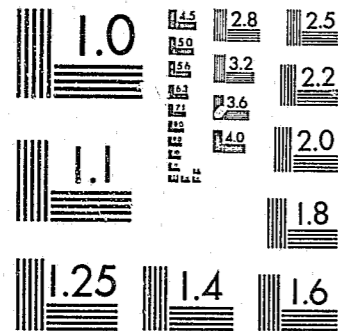


National Criminal Justice Reference Service



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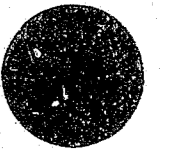
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National Institute of Justice
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20531

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INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM FOR
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CRIMINAL CASE PROCESSING IN
METROPOLITAN COURTS, 1976

(ICPSR 7750)

96113

Principal
Investigators

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Oakland University, Michig

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National Center for State
Courts

ICPSR Edition First Printing, 1980

96113

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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CRIMINAL CASE PROCESSING IN
METROPOLITAN COURTS, 1976
(ICPSR STUDY 7750)

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ICPSR EDITION
FIRST PRINTING, 1980

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | PAGE NO. |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| INTRODUCTION | |
| DATA DESCRIPTION | I |
| PROCESSING INFORMATION | II |
| CODEBOOK INFORMATION | II |
| RELATED PUBLICATIONS | IV |
| VARIABLE DESCRIPTION LIST | V |
| CODEBOOK | 1 |

NCJRS

JAN 7 1985

ACQUISITIONS

DATA DESCRIPTION

Project Description

In 1977, the National Center for State Courts, in cooperation with the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, began a research and demonstration project on delay in major metropolitan courts. The objectives of the project were to 1) determine the scope and extent of delay in such courts, 2) to identify factors associated with delay and 3) to suggest and ultimately test techniques which will work to reduce delay.

One portion of this research involved the collection of case specific data on both civil and criminal cases in the 21 courts visited. The survey described here is a portion of the data collected on criminal criminal cases in each of these cities. The data was gathered by either students or staff from the agency in which data was collected under the supervision of a local professor or member of the criminal justice community experienced in the collection of data for empirical research purposes. The data supervisor and coders, where possible, were briefed on site by project staff concerning location of the data and the manner in which it was to be coded. In addition, manuals giving directions for the selection and coding of cases in each city were prepared by project staff. All data forms were also prepared by project staff. Data was collected on a combination of optical scanning and keypunch forms.

Sample Description

This survey consists of 21 samples, each of which contains data on 400 to 600 individual criminal cases. The cases were either systematically or randomly selected from the set of cases finally disposed of at the general jurisdiction trial court level in either the 1976 fiscal or calendar year. Cases transferred to another court or those which entered a fugitive status were excluded from the sample. The samples were limited to felonies and high misdemeanors where the potential punishment was one year in prison or more. The sample consists of cases filed as felonies in the court of general jurisdiction and contain no

II

cases where the arrest was on a felony which was reduced to a misdemeanor before a felony case was filed in the general jurisdiction court. Cases filed as felonies in the general jurisdiction court where the defendant was convicted of a misdemeanor were included because the case was filed as a felony.

From each site there is a systematic or random sample of the set of all dispositions for the year. In 10 sites, there is an additional sample of trials, either all trials begun, cases ending with a verdict, jury or court, or just cases ending in a jury verdict. See discussion in the codebook section, VAR.5, for further amplification. A case is defined as all charges in one indictment or information against one defendant.

FILE STRUCTURE AND PROCESSING INFORMATION

The data have been examined and reformatted from the original release version. All blanks and non-numeric characters have been removed. The archive file consists of three physical file stored on magnetic tape: a machine readable users guide which documents the data for the human user, an OSIRIS Type 1 dictionary file which describes the data to a computer program, and a data file. This OSIRIS data file is constructed with a single 51 byte record for each case. The OSIRIS data file can be accessed directly by software packages which do not use the OSIRIS dictionary by specifying the tape locations.

CODEBOOK INFORMATION

The example below is a reproduction of information appearing in the machine readable codebook for a typical variable. The numbers in brackets do not appear but are references to the descriptions which follow this example.

III

[1] VAR 8 [2] MOST SERIGUS CHARGE [3] MD=0
REF 8 [4] LOC 19 WIDTH 2

[5] The most serious charge in the indictment

[7]
1. Homicide
[6] 2. Armed robbery only

[1] Indicates the variable and reference numbers. A variable and a reference number are assigned to each item in the study. In this codebook which documents the archived dataset these numbers are identical. Should the data be formed into a fixed length record file, new variable numbers may be assigned or created. The reference number would remain unchanged and correspond to those in this codebook.

[2] Indicates the abbreviated (24 character maximum) variable label used within OSIRIS to identify each variable. An expanded version can be found in the variable description list.

[3] Indicates the designation of missing data. In this example code values equal to 0. Although this value is defined as within the missing data category, this does not mean that the user should not or cannot use this code value in a substantive role if he/she so desires.

[4] Indicates the sequential location and width of this variable within the record when the data are stored on magnetic tape. In this example, the variable named "MOST SERIOUS CHARGE" is one column wide and located in the 10th column within the dataset. In a fixed length record file of this data the locations will be different.

[5] Indicates the full text of the variable description supplied by the original collectors of the data.

[6] Indicates the code values occurring in the data for this variable.

[7] Indicates the meaning of the codes.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Church, Jr., Thomas; Alan Carlson; Jo-Lynne Lee and Teresa Tan, JUSTICE DELAYED: THE FACE OF LITIGATION IN URBAN TRIAL COURTS, National Center for State Courts, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1976

Church, Jr., Thomas; Jo-Lynne Lee, Teresa Tan, Alan Carlson and Virginia McConnell, PRETRIAL DELAY: A REVIEW AND BIBLIOGRAPHY, National Center for State Courts, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1978

VARIABLE DESCRIPTION LIST

VAR.
NO.

1. ICPSR Study Number (#7750)
2. ICPSR Version Number (Version #1)
3. ICPSR File Number (File #1)
4. ICPSR Unique Sequential Identification Number
5. Site Code
6. Case Identifying Number
7. Disposition Type
8. Most Serious Charge Of Indictment
9. Date of Arrest
10. Date of filing of charging instrument
11. Date Trial Commenced
12. Date of Disposition
13. Date of Sentencing
14. Sample Type

'01'

DK 1 COL 1- 2

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| VAR 0001 | ICPSR STUDY NUMBER | NO MISSING DATA CODES |
| REF 0001 | LOC 1 WIDTH 4 | DK 1 COL 3- 6 |

ICPSR Study Identification Number

7750. Unique ICPSR number identifying this study

| | | |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| VAR 0002 | ICPSR VERSION NUMBER | NO MISSING DATA CODES |
| REF 0002 | LOC 5 WIDTH 1 | DK 1 COL 7 |

ICPSR Version Number

1. This is the first release of this study

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| VAR 0003 | ICPSR FILE NUMBER | NO MISSING DATA CODES |
| REF 0003 | LOC 6 WIDTH 1 | DK 1 COL 8 |

ICPSR File Number

1. The complete study is contained in one file

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| VAR 0004 | ICPSR SEQUENTIAL NUMBER | NO MISSING DATA CODES |
| REF 0004 | LOC 7 WIDTH 5 | DK 1 COL 9-13 |

ICPSR Sequential Identification Number

<The ICPSR has attached a sequential case identification number to every record. This number uniquely identifies each of the 10,476 records in the file.>

VAP 0005 SITE CODE NO MISSING DATA CODES
REF 0005 LOC 12 WIDTH 2 DK 1 COL 14-15

Site Code

The site codes were assigned to the sites more or less in the order in which they were visited in the spring of 1977. They serve only to distinguish one court from another and are unrelated to any judicial district number or other number by which the court might be referred to within its state.

641 01. Oakland, Ca. - Alameda County Superior Court
(Includes sample of cases ending in a jury verdict)
447 02. Portland, Or. - Multnomah County Circuit Court
432 03. Seattle, Wash. - King County Superior Court
(Includes sample of cases in which a trial began, regardless of the outcome.)
511 04. Philadelphia, Pa. - Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas (Includes sample of cases ending in a jury verdict)

NOTE: The Philadelphia sample appears to be a combination of three samples, all selected randomly by the court's own computer system. One is of serious felonies, one of lesser felonies and one jury verdicts. The first two samples are combined. Comparison of the most serious charge distribution of the sample with published statistics for the court suggests that the more serious felonies were over-sampled. Extreme caution should be exercised in using this sample for comparative purposes.

493 05. Newark, N.J. - Essex County Superior Court
488 06. Boston, Mass. - Suffolk County Superior Court
406 07. Bronx County, N.Y. - Bronx County Supreme Court
517 08. Pittsburgh Pa. - Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas (Includes an additional sample of jury verdicts.)
533 09. Cleveland Oh. - Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas
361 10. Pontiac, Mi. - 6th Judicial Circuit Court
(Includes a sample of cases in which trial began, regardless of outcome.)
478 11. Dallas, Tx. - Dallas County District Courts
523 12. Houston, Tx. - Harris County District Courts
(Includes a sample of cases ending in a bench or

(CONTINUED)

jury verdict.)
480 13. San Diego, Ca. - San Diego County Superior Court
532 14. Atlanta Ga. - Fulton County Superior Court
(Includes a sample of cases ending in a bench or jury verdict.)
667 15. Phoenix, Az. - Maricopa County Superior Court
(Includes a sample of cases ending in a jury verdict.)
391 16. New Orleans, La. - Orleans Parish Criminal District Court
488 17. Miami, Fl. - 11th Judicial Circuit Court
556 18. Ft. Lauderdale Fl. - 17th Judicial Circuit Court
(Includes a sample of cases ending in a jury verdict.)
486 19. Detroit, Mi. - 3rd Judicial Circuit Court
487 20. Minneapolis, Mn. - 4th Judicial District Court
(Includes a sample of cases in which a trial began, regardless of the outcome.)
547 21. St. Paul, Mn. - 2nd Judicial District Court

12 00. DK

.....
VAP 0006 CASE IDENTIFYING NUMBER NO MISSING DATA CODES
REF 0006 LOC 14 WIDTH 3 DK 1 COL 16-18

Case Sequence Number

Due to privacy concerns of the sites themselves and of the delay project, case identifiers, such as case number and defendant name, were not supplied with these surveys. Instead, a number was assigned to each case which roughly corresponds to the sequence of that case among all the cases for each site. If necessary, it is possible to generate a list of defendant names and case numbers from the original surveys with the corresponding Case Identifying Number given here. This not true of the Boston sample where recording the case numbers and the defendant's name was not allowed.

VAR 0007 DISPOSITION TYPE MD=0
 REF 0007 LOC 17 WIDTH 2 DK 1 COL 19-20

Disposition Type

This code gives the final disposition of this case as to this defendant at the general jurisdiction court level. Only one disposition type is recorded, regardless of the number of courts. If a defendant pleads guilty to any one or more counts and the remaining were dismissed, it would be coded as a guilty plea. A case was recorded as a verdict, jury or court, regardless of whether the result was conviction or acquittal. There are several codes peculiar to one or a few sites. The sites in which they are found are indicated in parenthesis after the disposition type description.

- 6164 01. Guilty plea regardless of when entered
- 1201 02. Jury Verdict
- 550 03. Bench or Court Verdict
- 1794 04. Dismissed/nolle prosequi
- 47 05. Submitted on transcript (Phoenix)
- 192 06. Dead docket (Atlanta, Boston)
(Not included in processing times report for Boston.)
- 5 07. Remand to lower court (Portland)
(Not included in reported times.)
- 134 08. YTA - Youthful Trainee Act (Detroit, Pontiac)

ARD - Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition
(Pittsburgh)
- 1 09. Trial-type unknown (Miami, Portland)
- 139 10. Certified plea of guilty (San Diego, Alameda)
- 39 11. Indictment Covered by guilty plea to another indictment (Bronx)
- 30 12. D1, D2 type dismissals (Seattle)
- 21 13. D3, D4 type dismissals (Seattle)
- 56 14. D5 type dismissals (Seattle)
- 51 15. Other
- 52 00. DK

VAR 0008 MOST SERIOUS CHARGE MD=0
 REF 0008 LOC 19 WIDTH 2 DK 1 COL 21-22

Most Serious Charge

This code corresponds to the most serious charge contained in the indictment or information relating to this defendant. The charges are ranked in seriousness in the order they are listed below. Thus, if a defendant was charged with robbery and a weapons charge, the most serious charge code would be robbery. If a site name is given in parenthesis after a crime type, that code will appear only in that site's sample. In Portland the categories were codes 7, 13 and 14.

- 456 01. Homicide
- 455 02. Armed robbery only
- 214 03. All robbery
- 449 04. Sex crimes
- 944 05. Assault
- 522 06. Unarmed robbery only
- 1698 07. Drug/controlled substances
- 374 08. Weapons
- 1749 09. Burglary, breaking and entering, trespass
- 2297 10. Theft, larceny, fraud, stolen property, forgery, welfare fraud
- 59 11. Worthless checks (Miami)
- 50 12. Driving while intoxicated (Dallas)
- 52 13. Violent (Portland)
- 294 14. Non-violent (Portland)
- 828 15. Other (escape, kidnapping, arson, gambling, pornography, conspiracy, extortion, misconduct in office, bribery, etc.)
- 35 00. DK

NOTES ON CLASSIFYING CHARGES:

1) The HOMICIDE category includes only murder (of any degree) and voluntary manslaughter. INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER and NEGLIGENCE HOMICIDE (including motor vehicle cases) are code "1". 2) The SEX CRIMES category includes all forcible sex crimes, including sodomy and child

(CONTINUED)

molesting. 3) All DRUG cases were coded "7", regardless of the drug involved or whether the charge was for sale, possession, or use. 4) BURGLARY includes breaking and entering and criminal trespass. 5) THEFT/LARCENY/STOLEN PROPERTY includes theft, larceny, fraud, forgery, embezzlement, bad checks (except Miami), possession of stolen property and other non-violent property crimes. 6) All attempts were coded as if the defendant were charged with the substantive offense attempted. "Aggravated" crimes were coded similarly. 7) The degree of the charge is not important either. If the charge cannot be classified into one of the other categories, it is coded "15".

VAR 0009 ARREST DATE MD=0
 REF 0009 LOC 21 WIDTH 6 DK 1 COL 23-28

Arrest Date

This is the date the defendant was first arrested for the incident which lead to the filing of this case. Arrest dates were not collected in Portland or Boston due to the prohibitive cost involved in locating the data. In Houston, arrest dates were collected in only a subset of cases filed in a particular police jurisdiction and are therefore not necessarily representative of all cases.

NOTE: All of the "date" variables (V9-V13) are in six column fields with the format as follows: 1) The first two digits are the last digits of the year and range from 60 (1960) to 77 (1977). The third and fourth digit indicate the month and range from 01 (January) to 12 (December). The fifth and sixth digits are the day of the month and range from 01 to 31. MISSING DATA FOR ANY TWO DIGITS OF THE FIELD IS "00". Because of the large number of cities involved and the brief time span of the project, it was not possible to return every city and correct errors. Instead, all of the data for a case in which an inconsistency was found were examined. The date(s) which made the least sense were set to "00", ie., ignored. As a result events may have taken place in a case for which the date was erroneously coded and for that reason set to "00".

VAR 0010 DATE FILE CHR3 INSTRUMNT MD=0
 REF 0010 LOC 27 WIDTH 6 DK 1 COL 29-34

Date of filing of charging instrument in general jurisdiction court

Where possible, the date the accusatory instrument was filed in the court of general jurisdiction was recorded. This is the indictment, information, or complaint. In the following cities, this date was unavailable and the date indicated after the city name was used in its place:

- Minneapolis - date charge filed (no lower court)
- Newark - date indictment presented by the grand jury
- Philadelphia - date first arraignment in Common Pleas Court
- Portland - Circuit Court arraignment date
- Seattle - Superior Court arraignment date
- St. Paul - date complaint filed (no lower court)
- San Diego - date papers were received from Municipal Court (seven to ten days prior to date information was filed).

SEE VAR. 9 NOTE FOR NUMBERING SCHEMA

VAR 0011 TRIAL DATE COMMENCED MD=0
 REF 0011 LOC 33 WIDTH 6 DK 1 COL 35-40

Date Trial Commenced

The date the first trial in this case commenced. This date was not available for the following sites:

Atlanta

(CONTINUED)

Ft. Lauderdale
Philadelphia
Phoenix

SEE VAR. 9 NOTE FOR NUMBERING SCHEMA

VAR 0012 DISPOSITION DATE MD=0
REF 0012 LOC 39 WIDTH 6 DK 1 COL 41-46

Disposition Date

This is the date the case was disposed of as to this defendant. That would be the date the guilty plea was accepted, the date of the jury or court verdict, the date the case was dismissed, or the date the case entered a diversion program.

SEE VAR. 9 NOTE FOR NUMBERING SCHEMA

VAR 0013 SENTENCING DATE MD=0
REF 0013 LOC 45 WIDTH 6 DK 1 COL 47-52

Sentencing Date

This is the date the defendant was sentenced, if they were convicted of a crime. If the defendant was not sentenced, there will be a field of "000000". A field of "000000" could also mean the date was eliminated as inconsistent due to some coding.

SEE VAR. 9 NOTE FOR NUMBERING SCHEMA

VAR 0014 SAMPLE TYPE MD=0
REF 0014 LOC 51 WIDTH 1 DK 1 COL 53

Sample Type

The sample type indicates whether this case is one of the cases randomly or systematically sampled from the set of all dispositions for one year or is one of the cases randomly or systematically sampled from the set of all trials occurring in one year.

- 9895 1. Case is selected from set of all dispositions
- 568 2. Case is selected from set of all trials of some type. Set is either all jury verdicts, all cases in which a trial began, or all cases ending in a court or jury verdict. SEE VAR. 4 CODE DESCRIPTIONS FOR AMPLIFICATION.
- 13 0. DK

END