

SOCIOMETRICS PROJECT NO. 21

DATA RESOURCES PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) contracted with Sociometrics to operate the NIJ Data Resources Program, a data archive on criminal justice research. The Program gave easy access to large-scale data on issues in criminal behavior, victimization, and the criminal justice system.

The scope of work included:

Review of data sets. Data sets were reviewed for completeness of documentation and readiness for secondary analysis, correspondence between the data and the codebook or questionnaire, missing data and out of range codes, and internal consistency of the coding.

Preparation of data files and documentation. Machine-readable raw data files were prepared with an associated paper codebook specifying variable position and format. Where appropriate, original instruments were included.

Direct dissemination of data and documentation. Data files and documentation were made available to users at a modest cost. Free technical assistance was provided. Included with the data and documentation were:

User's Guides. Guides for each data set included a study abstract, a report on data completeness and consistency, and a description of machine-readable files and printed materials.

Machine-readable files. For each data set in the archive a machine-readable raw data file was made available in either mainframe or microcomputer format, according to the user's choice.

Supplementary printed materials. A printed copy of the original codebook, as augmented by Sociometrics, was made available, as was a copy of original instruments, where appropriate.

Catalog. A continually updated catalog was maintained that listed the data sets currently in the archive and provided a brief description of each.

Users Services. A variety of services were offered, including a free copy of the Catalog, on request, and technical assistance by mail or telephone.

Copies of the data and documentation were also deposited with the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data maintained by ICPSR at the University of Michigan.

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Contract No: OJP-89-C-008

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Duration: 09/27/89—11/01/92

Budget: \$850,452

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