

Implementation of Quantitative Decision Aids in the
Oklahoma Probation and
Parole System, 1989-1990

User's Guide

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ICPSR 9963

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IMPLEMENTATION OF QUANTITATIVE DECISION AIDS IN THE OKLAHOMA
PROBATION AND PAROLE SYSTEM, 1989-1990

(ICPSR 9963)

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Anne L. Schneider, Zoann Snyder-Joy, and Laurie H. Ervin
IMPLEMENTATION OF QUANTITATIVE DECISION AIDS IN THE OKLAHOMA
PROBATION AND PAROLE SYSTEM, 1989-1990 (ICPSR 9963)

SUMMARY: These data were collected to examine the use of quantitative decision aids in making probation and parole decisions in Oklahoma. The quantitative aids implemented in Oklahoma were modifications of the Wisconsin risks/needs assessment instruments. To determine the uses of and attitudes towards such instruments, Oklahoma probation and parole officers were queried regarding the appropriateness of the instruments in making probation and parole decisions, the specific circumstances in which the instruments were useful, the reasons why the instruments were used, and the extent to which the instruments were manipulated. In addition, data were collected from the officers on job satisfaction and age, length of employment, sex, education, and race. CLASS III

UNIVERSE: Probation and parole officers in the state of Oklahoma.

SAMPLING: The sample consists of 180 probation and parole officers who returned completed questionnaires. A total of 296 surveys were distributed.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (text) + SAS Control Cards + SPSS Control Cards + data collection instrument

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: MDATA/ BLANKS/ UNDOCCHK.ICPSR

DATA FORMAT: Logical Record Length with SPSS Export File and SAS and SPSS Control Cards

Part 1: Main Data File	Part 2: SPSS Export File
File Structure: rectangular	Record Length: 80
Cases: 180	
Variables: 167	
Record Length: 326	
Records Per Case: 1	

Part 3: SAS Control Cards	Part 4: User Guide
Record Length: 66	Record Length: 79

GENERAL STUDY OVERVIEW

STUDY IDENTIFICATION

IMPLEMENTATION OF QUANTITATIVE DECISION AIDS IN THE OKLAHOMA PROBATION AND PAROLE SYSTEM, 1989-1990

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Award No. 89-IJ-CX-0012

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Formal decision models have been used in criminal justice to guide decisions regarding diversion, sentencing, bail, parole, intensity of probation supervision, and treatment modality. The authors explore how a quantitative decision aid has been implemented and used in Oklahoma. The researchers studied how the Wisconsin risks/needs instruments were implemented by the Oklahoma Probation and Parole Department, how they were actually used, and the attitudes towards them held by probation and parole officers. The researchers addressed a number of issues including (1) the usefulness of the risk/needs assessment instruments, (2) what the instruments are useful for, (3) why officers use the instruments, (4) whether the instruments are manipulated by officers, and (5) job satisfaction. In addition, some demographic and background information was collected on the respondents, including age, sex, education, years of probation and parole experience, caseload, and experience with previous risk/needs assessment instruments. The research should be useful in identifying the attitudes and concerns of probation and parole professionals who use quantitative decision aids and in determining the perceived utility of these aids.

METHODS

STUDY DESIGN

The researchers were interested in collecting data on attitudes towards and actual use of quantitative decision aids among probation and parole officers in Oklahoma. A preliminary letter was sent to all probation and parole officers in the state, encouraging their participation. Surveys were then mailed to each officer. The surveys were self-administered, and upon completion they were returned to the researchers. All responses were confidential.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Self-administered questionnaires were mailed to the 296 probation and parole officers in the state of Oklahoma.

SAMPLE

Questionnaires were mailed to all probation and parole officers in the state of Oklahoma. The data contain the responses from all of the questionnaires returned.

RESPONSE RATES

Completed questionnaires were received from 180 (61 percent) of the 296 probation officers solicited.

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

1989-1990

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION OF VARIABLES

The survey instrument was designed to address a number of specific topics, including (1) whether probation and parole officers believe the instruments are appropriate and useful in making decisions about the intensity of probation, (2) what officers believe the instruments are useful for, such as doing a better job, increasing control of supervisors within the hierarchical structure, legitimizing decisions to the public, and protecting officers from blame, (3) why

officers use the instruments, such as for professional reasons, trust in expertise or research, requirements within a hierarchical structure, or positive or negative incentives, (4) the extent to which the instruments are manipulated by the officers, and how much influence is exerted by the media or by external political agendas, and (5) the relationship between attitudes towards the instruments and job satisfaction.

PRESENCE OF COMMON SCALES

None

UNIT OF OBSERVATION

Individuals.

PART NUMBER: 1
PART NAME: Main Data File
FILE STRUCTURE: rectangular
CASE COUNT: 180
VARIABLE COUNT: 167
RECORD LENGTH: 326
RECORDS PER CASE: 1

PART NUMBER: 2
PART NAME: SPSS Export File
RECORD LENGTH: 80

PART NUMBER: 3
PART NAME: SAS Control Cards
RECORD LENGTH: 66

PART NUMBER: 4
PART NAME: User Guide
RECORD LENGTH: 79

DATA COMPLETENESS REPORT

This report corresponds to the data file: DA9963.P1

Table 1: Distribution of Variables by Percentage of Missing Values*

Variable Name and Label (Total cases=180)	Percent of Cases with Missing Values

22.8% (38 of 167 variables) have 0% Missing Values	
52.7% (88 of 167 variables) have > 0% - 1% Missing Values	
16.2% (27 of 167 variables) have > 1% - 3% Missing Values	
0.6% (1 of 167 variables) have > 3% - 5% Missing Values	
0.6% (1 of 167 variables) have > 5% - 10% Missing Values	
MOD MOD	7.8%
0.0% (0 of 167 variables) have > 10% - 20% Missing Values	
2.4% (4 of 167 variables) have > 20% - 40% Missing Values	
CASELOAD CASES IN CASE LOAD	20.6%
CONTACTS HRS/DAY WITH CLIENTS	21.1%
OTHRDUTY HRS/DAY DOING ASSEMTS	22.8%
PAPERHRS HOURS IN PAPER SCHOOL	37.8%
4.8% (8 of 167 variables) have > 40% - 100% Missing Values	
OTHER1 OTHER REASONS FOR OVERRIDE	60.6%
HRSHOUS HOURS OF IN HSE-TRAIN	64.4%
OTHER2 OTHER REASONS FOR OVERRIDE	81.7%
HRSTATE HOURS OF IN ST-TRAIN	94.4%
HRROUT HOURS OF OUT OF ST-TRNG	95.0%
OTHER3 OTHER REASONS FOR OVERRIDE	95.0%
OTHER4 OTHER REASONS FOR OVERRIDE	98.3%
OTHER5 OTHER REASONS FOR OVERRIDE	99.4%

 *Variables individually listed only if greater than 5% missing values.
 Data does not contain skip patterns or skip patterns are not reflected
 in the data as coded.