

ICPSR 32881

**Research on Pathways to  
Desistance [Maricopa County, AZ  
and Philadelphia County, PA]:  
Collateral Measures, 2000-2004**

Description

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## **Bibliographic Description**

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Title: Research on Pathways to Desistance [Maricopa County, AZ and Philadelphia County, PA]: Collateral Measures, 2000-2004

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Principal Investigator(s): Edward P. Mulvey, University of Pittsburgh

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## Scope of Study

**Summary:** The Pathways to Desistance study was a multi-site study that followed 1,354 serious juvenile offenders from adolescence to young adulthood in two locales. Enrolled into the study were adjudicated youths from the juvenile and adult court systems in Maricopa County (Phoenix), Arizona (N=654) and Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania (N=700) from 2000 through 2010.

This study looks at interviews conducted with the collateral informants who participated in the study. The collateral informants were nominated by the main study participant and represented individuals who "knew the study participant well". At the interview baseline the collateral informant was usually a biological parent. During the three follow-up interviews the majority of collaterals were a friend. Collateral informants could also be a sibling, significant other, or relative. Collaterals were asked questions in regards to the main study participant's life, allowing for comparison between responses provided by two sources. A baseline interview was conducted with the collateral after the baseline interview took place with the main participant. Additional waves of follow-up with collaterals took place at 12, 24, and 36 months. A collateral report is not present for all of the main study participant interviews across waves (see response rate below).

**Subject Term(s):** academic achievement, community involvement, crime, demographic characteristics, family life, friendships, gangs, household composition, income, interpersonal relations, juvenile crime, juvenile offenders, neighborhood conditions, personal adjustment, psychological evaluation, psychosocial assessment, religion, social behavior, substance abuse

**Geographic Coverage:** Arizona, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Phoenix, United States

**Time Period:** • 2000 - 2003, Baseline

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- 2001 - 2006, Follow-up

Date(s) of Collection: • November 2000 - April 2006

Unit of Observation: individual

Universe: Main study participants are youths 14-19 years of age from the juvenile and adult court systems in Maricopa County (Phoenix), Arizona, and Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania from November 2000 to April 2003. Collateral informants are individuals nominated by the main study participant.

Data Type: survey data

Data Collection Notes: More information about this study is available on the Pathways to Desistance ([Link](#)) Web site.

Other contributors to the Pathways to Desistance study:

- Carol A. Schubert, University of Pittsburgh (Study Director)
- Laurie Chassin, Ph.D., Arizona State University (Co-Investigator)
- George P. Knight, Ph.D., Arizona State University (Co-Investigator)
- Sandra Losoya, Ph.D., Arizona State University (Site Coordinator)
- Laurence Steinberg, Ph.D., Temple University (Co-Investigator)
- Robert Brame, Ph.D., University of North Carolina-Charlotte
- Elizabeth Cauffman, Ph.D., University of California-Irvine (Co-Investigator)
- Jeffrey Fagan, Ph.D., Columbia University
- Alex Piquero, Ph.D., Florida State University

Collateral informants were individuals who knew the main study participant well. These individuals varied in their relationship to the main study participant. The largest groups of collaterals were parents, siblings, significant others, and friends/roommates. With the exception of the baseline data the breakdown of the various groups was similar across the three follow-up waves.

- Parents: 73 percent / 13 percent / 16 percent / 18 percent
- Siblings: 4 percent / 18 percent / 16 percent / 14 percent
- Significant Others: 0 percent / 11 percent / 14 percent / 18 percent
- Friends/Roommates: 1 percent / 32 percent / 24 percent / 21 percent

## Methodology

**Purpose of the Study:** The aims of the Pathways study were to identify initial patterns of how serious adolescent offenders stop antisocial activity, to describe the role of social context and developmental changes in promoting these positive changes, and to compare the effects of sanctions and interventions in promoting these changes. The larger goals of the Pathways to Desistance study were to improve decision-making by court and social service personnel and to clarify policy debates about alternatives for serious adolescent offenders. The study relied primarily on self-report information from study participants. Additionally this part of the Pathways study was designed to obtain a secondary report of information regarding the main study participant from individuals who "know him/her well".

**Study Design:** Main study participants were enrolled into the study between November 2000 through January 2003 following an adjudication in the juvenile or adult court systems in Maricopa County (Phoenix), Arizona (N=654) and Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania (N=700).

For the main study participant, a baseline interview was conducted within 75 days of the youth's adjudication hearing. For youths in the adult system, the baseline interview was conducted within 90 days of either (a) the decertification hearing in Philadelphia, a hearing at which it is determined if the case will remain in adult court or if it will be sent back to juvenile court; or (b) the adult arraignment hearing in Phoenix, the point in the Arizona adult system at which charges have been formally presented.

Follow-up interviews were conducted with the main study participant every six months for the first three years of the study and annually thereafter through seven years. Collateral informants were interviewed at baseline and annually through the first three years.

**Sample:** Six potential cities/counties were investigated for potential selection before Phoenix and Philadelphia were finalized. These two areas were selected due to containing (a) high enough rates of serious crime committed by juveniles; (b) a diverse racial/ethnic mix of potential participants; (c) a sizable enough number of female offenders; (d) a contrast in the way the systems operate; (e) political support for the study and cooperation from the practitioners in the juvenile and criminal justice systems; and (f) the presence of experienced research collaborators to oversee the data collection.

Youth were selected for potential enrollment after a review of court files in each locale revealed that they had been adjudicated (found guilty) of a serious offense. Eligible crimes included all felony offenses with the

exception of less serious property crimes, as well as misdemeanor weapons offenses and misdemeanor sexual assault.

Drug offenses constitute a large proportion of all offenses committed by youth. And males comprise the vast majority of youth who are charged with drug offenses. Therefore the study instituted a capped proportion of males with drug offenses to 15 percent of the sample at each site.

All females who met the age and adjudicated crime requirements, or any youth whose case was being considered for trial in the adult court system, were eligible for enrollment regardless if the charged crime was a drug offense.

Weight: none

Mode of Data Collection: computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI)

Description of Variables: Many of the same variable groups and actual questions asked of the collaterals are the exact same as what was asked of the subjects.

A crosswalk of the variable groups is provided at the front of each codebook showing what groups of questions were asked across the waves. For the three waves of follow-up (parts 2-4) the variables in each are exactly the same.

Response Rates: The number of subjects sampled for the Pathways series was 1,354. Each of the four collateral files contain a record for all 1,354 main study participants, even when the collateral interview was missed. With few exceptions (n=7), a collateral report is present only when a main study participant interview was completed. The following list provides the response rate for those collaterals who completed the interview. About 1-2 percent of the cases in each wave participated but only completed part of the questionnaire.

- Baseline: 89 percent
- 12 Month Follow-up: 82 percent of 1,354; 88 percent of main study participant interviews have a collateral report
- 24 Month Follow-up: 80 percent of 1,354; 88 percent of main study participant interviews have a collateral report
- 36 Month Follow-up: 82 percent of 1,354; 91 percent of main study participant interviews have a collateral report

Presence of Common Scales: This study used multiple scales. More detailed information about the scales is available on the Constructs ([Link](#)) page of the Pathways to Desistance Web site.

Extent of Processing: Created online analysis version with question text.

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: Users are reminded that these data are to be used solely for statistical analysis and reporting of aggregated information, and not for the investigation of specific individuals or organizations.

Original ICPSR Release: 2013-01-07

Dataset(s):

- DS1: Baseline
- DS2: 12-Month Follow-up
- DS3: 24-Month Follow-up
- DS4: 36-Month Follow-up

## Publications

Final Reports and Other Publication Resources: A list of publications related to, or based on, this data collection can be accessed from the study's download page on the NACJD Web site or through the ICPSR Bibliography of Data-Related Literature at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/citations/index.html>. The list of citations includes links to abstracts and publications in Portable Document Format (PDF) files or text files when available.

Final reports and other publications describing research conducted on a variety of criminal justice topics are available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). NCJRS was established in 1972 by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice, to provide research findings to criminal justice professionals and researchers. NCJRS operates specialized clearinghouses that are staffed by information specialists who supply a range of reference, referral, and distribution services. Publications can be obtained from NCJRS at NIJ/NCJRS, Box 6000, Rockville, MD, 20849-6000, 800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500. TTY Service for the Hearing Impaired is 877-712-9279 (toll-free) or 301-947-8374 (local). The URL for the NCJRS Web site is:

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/>

## NIJ Data Resources Program

About the DRP: The National Institute of Justice Data Resources Program (DRP) makes datasets from NIJ-funded research and evaluation projects available to the research community and sponsors research and training activities devoted to secondary data analysis. Datasets are archived by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan.

The NACJD maintains a World Wide Web site with instructions for transferring files and sending messages. Criminal justice data funded by the Department of Justice are available via the Internet at this site at no charge to the user. NACJD may be contacted at NACJD/ICPSR, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106-1248, 800-999-0960. The URL for the NACJD Web site is:

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/>