The data for this graph come from the Slave Sales and Appraisals, 1775–1865 (ICPSR 7421) data file. The graph illustrates the mean appraised or sales price of slaves during the colonial era in eight southern states. Note the substantial variation in assessed price by state and by gender of the slave. Female slaves in the state of South Carolina were valued at nearly twice the dollar value as males.

About the Project

The Minority Data Resource Center (MDRC) is an initiative of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. Our goal is to provide educators, researchers, and students with data resources that can be used in the analysis of issues affecting racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States. We offer streamlined access to existing ICPSR data and to newly acquired studies that are relevant to the study of immigration, place of origin, ancestry, ethnicity, and race in the United States.

Additionally, the MDRC provides access to analytic tools intended to enhance the usability of the vast array of data available for comparative research. These data include comprehensive ongoing national surveys and administrative records that allow researchers to track changes in outcomes for members of minority populations.

Contact us at ICPSRMDRC@isr.umich.edu or 734.936.5784.

www.icpsr.umich.edu/MDRC

Analysis Tools

All the data files in the Minority Data Resource Center with online analysis capability have additional analysis tools: Sample Characteristics, Subset, and Recode.

- **Sample Characteristics tool** — assesses survey sample sizes.
- **Subset tool** — creates data subsets dynamically for selected subpopulations of the survey using single variables or multiple variables.
- **Recode Syntax** — allows users to download syntax code and copy and paste it within the appropriate statistical package to recode variables.

Finding
In an effort to bring awareness to data resources about racial and ethnic minority populations, the ICPSR Summer Program offers a four-week course titled “Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity.” This course examines research design, measurement, and analysis issues in quantitative research on racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States. Topics will include the following:

• reliable and valid measurement of racial and ethnic variables in major survey studies
• innovative sampling strategies for diverse populations
• race-related measurement errors in data collection
• analysis traditions and trends within various social/behavioral science fields

The class features an interdisciplinary perspective, with examples drawn from such fields as sociology, psychology, political science, and economics.

ICPSR is the world’s largest archive of digital social science data. Located at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, ICPSR acquires, preserves, and distributes original social science research data.

For more information about ICPSR, see www.icpsr.umich.edu. Contact us by email at netmail@icpsr.umich.edu or telephone at 734.647.5000.