POTENTIAL DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DATA

Please note that DOCs will vary according to the type of data that they keep in electronic form. Many prisons will keep only certain data in
electronic format other data in hard copy only. This is a list of data that a prison or jail *may* maintain in electronic and/or hard-copy form.
It is not likely that the DOC will have the resources or the willingness to provide you with all these data. If it is a matter of resources, it may
be possible to have a staff member or an intern from a local university or college to collect the hard-copy data and add the data to the dataset.

	Variable	Confidentiality Issues?	Potential Solutions for Confidentiality Issues & Other Notes
Demographic Information			
1	Name (First, Last)	Y	Some DOCs will include prisoners' names in the data set that they provide you. Prisoners' names should be deleted immediately from the data set in order to prevent any confidentiality issues from arising. Also, because several prisoners could share the same name, names are not reliable identifiers.
2	Residential Address at Time of Arrest or Admission (Street Address, Zip Code, City, State, and Country)	Y	Some DOCs consider prisoners' addresses to be sensitive data and may be unwilling to include them in a data set. For example, if there is only one prisoner mapped on a street and if you also map other information as well (such as the offender's crime or age), then the prisoner could be identified. Since address-level data is critical for the purposes of mapping, one compromise is to aggregate to the block level or a higher unit of analysis, such as the census block group.
3	Residential Address at Time of Release (Street Address, Zip Code, City, State, and Country)	Y	See above.
4	Race/Ethnicity	Y	When there are only a few prisoners in a particular race/ethnicity category (e.g., Asian), then this information could be used in combination with other data to identify the prisoner. DOCs may not raise this issue, but you should work to avoid this potential IRB violation. The most common solution is to simply combine all categories that include a small number of observations into an "other" category.
5	Gender	N	There are usually a sufficient number of female prisoners to avoid any IRB issues.
6	Date of Birth	Y	Prisoners with ages that are unusually young (below 18) or that are unusually old have the potential of being identified as well. DOCs may not raise this issue, but you should work to avoid this potential IRB violation. The most common solution is to create age ranges for purposes of mapping and analysis. If there are sufficient number of prisoners between ages 16 and 17, then combine these prisoners into that group. If not, then add these prisoners to a category of ages between 16 and
7	Place of Birth (City, County, State, and Country)	N	
8	Citizenship	N	
9	History of Substance Abuse	N	Please note that the criteria for making this determination varies by institution. It may be helpful to ascertain how the DOC made this determination. Also note that, most often, this is based on self-reported information.
10	Last grade completed	N	
11	Whether possessed a degree (GED or high school) at admittance to DOC	N	
12	Number of Children	N	Please note that these data are rarely available.

	Variable	Confidentiality Issues?	Potential Solutions for Confidentiality Issues & Other Notes
Demographic Information (continued)			
13	Residence of Children	Y	See number 2. Please note that these data are rarely available.
14	Marital Status	N	
15	Religion	N	
16	How much child support owed and other debt	N	
17	Whether employed at arrest and/or admission	N	
18	Weekly earnings at arrest and/or admission (from taxable sources and from non-taxable sources)	N	
19	Mental Illness	Y	Confidentiality issues may arise in attempting to obtain mental health information, but the removal of identifiers should help to avoid this issue. Please note that the criteria for making this determination varies by institution. It may be helpful to ascertain how the DOC made this determination. Also note that, most often, this is based on self-reported information. Sometimes DOCs will ask related questions in a standardized way, such as: How many times have you attempted suicide (in prison and before)? Have you ever been institutionalized for a mental illness? Have you ever taken medication for mental health reasons? Are you currently taking medication for mental health reasons? Have you ever been diagnosed for a mental illness? The DOC may also simply have a marker in their database for the prisoner being at risk for suicide. The DOC may also be able to provide you with such information as whether the prisoner received mental-health care, the number of days a prisoner spent on suicide watch or in a mental health unit (if available), and/or whether the prisoner was transferred to a prison specifically designed for the
20	Physical health	Y	Confidentiality issues may arise in attempting to obtain physical health information, but the removal of identifiers may help to avoid this issue. The type of physical illness may be documented, especially if the prisoner must receive medication and treatment. You may be able to obtain information about whether or not a prisoner has a particular type of illness that is of particular concern, such as infectious diseases. The DOC may be able to provide you with the number of days a prisoner spent in the infirmary and any transfers to a hospital.
Criminal History			
NOTE: DOCs do not often collect information about prisoners' criminal history in other states.			
21	Prior arrests	N	
22	Prior convictions (number and type)	N	Ideally, the institution could provide you with information about the types of crimes for which the prisoner was convicted previously; but, given that prisoners' criminal records are often lengthy, the institution may not be able to provide this information unless they already keep it in their electronic database. They may be able to do so if you provide them with a list of particular offenses of interest, such as sex offenses, escape, and manslaughter.
23	Prior violation of a restraining order	N	
24	Prior incarcerations	N	

	Variable	Confidentiality Issues?	Potential Solutions for Confidentiality Issues & Other Notes
Current Incarceration & Release Information			
25	Institutional Identifier	N	Most DOCs give each prisoner an institutional number, but this number is frequently not unique to each prisoner. Rather, it is unique to the prisoners' admission into the institution and, as a result, one prisoner may have several institutional identifiers if s/he is re-incarcerated. The institutional identifier may, then, be helpful in identifying those prisoners who have been re-incarcerated during
26	FBI Identifier	N	Your analysis may require that the DOC provide you with a number that is unique to each prisoner so that you can identify those prisoners who have been reincarcerated. The FBI identifier should not raise IRB issues and should provide a unique identifier for each prisoner.
27	Social Security Number	Y	If there is no FBI identifier available in the institution's electronic database, the social security number (which prisons often keep) can serve as a unique identifier. Although many DOCs are willing to release a data set that includes prisoners' social security numbers, some may consider this a potential threat to confidentiality. One strategy for circumventing this problem is for the DOC to create unique identifiers for each prisoner based on the social security number. This option is problematic because it requires additional programming time on the part of the prison. If the prison does not have the resources necessary to do this work itself, then another option is for the DOC to release the data set with the social security numbers to one external researcher (who has signed a confidentiality agreement) who could create the unique identifiers for each prisoner based on the social security number. It may help if the researcher does this work on the DOC's
28	Risk Classification	N	Some prisons classify prisoners by the risk they pose to safety and security based on their criminal history, current sentence, and other characteristics. The most common prison classification instrument used today is the LSIR.
29	Date of Sentence to Prison	N	This can be important information because prisoners may have been held in a county jail before being transferred to prison.
30	Date of admittance to prison	N	
31	Date of admittance to jail	N	
32	Date of release from jail	N	
33	Date of release from prison	N	
34	Sentence Length (in days)	N	
35	Prison time served (in days)	N	
36	Jail time served (in days)	N	
37	Charges	N	Please note that most prisoners receive multiple charges for each sentence to prison. The prison may include all charges in the data set or the most serious charge. Ideally, the prison will include all of a prisoner's charges because they may allow you to conduct some further analyses. For example, you may want to examine the number of prisoners convicted of a drug charge, which would not be included in the data set if the prisoner was also convicted of a charge considered to be more serious, such as a violent charge. Also, you may want to determine the number of prisoners eligible for certain institutional programs and may need the full range of charges in order to make this determination. It may be helpful to have the prison describe how they decided which charges were more serious.

	Variable	Confidentiality Issues?	Potential Solutions for Confidentiality Issues & Other Notes
	Current Incarceration & Release Information (continued)		
38	National Crime Information Center (NCIC) most serious offense	N	See above.
39	Admission type (direct sentence from court, probation violation, or parole violation)	N	
40	Whether committed a felony	N	
41	Sentencing jurisdiction	N	
42	Educational Degrees Obtained while in the DOC (GED or High School)	N	
43	Program Participation (Program Type, Length of Participation, and Completion)	N	Programs could include work within or outside the institution, academic, vocational, and rehabilitation/reentry programs. DOCs may not disaggregate prisoners' program participation into these categories; in this case, it is difficult to disentangle prisoners' participation in particular programs, in particular rehabilitation and reentry
44	Good Time Earned	N	Good time are the days credited towards completion of a sentence based upon the behavior of a prisoner and on their participation in work, programs, and education).
45	Security level at admission	N	Security levels can include: super-maximum, administrative segregation, protective custody, maximum, medium, minimum, and community-based (halfway house, day reporting, electronic monitoring, etc.). Some DOCs may not have all these types of custody available to prisoners.
46	Security level at release	N	See above.
47	Total Days in Different Custody Levels	N	See above.
48	Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) alert	N	
49	Total Number of Major and Minor Disciplinary Convictions	N	
50	Reason for Major Disciplinary Conviction	N	Major disciplinary reports may be issued for such offenses as a violent act (on staff or another prisoner) and possession of drugs.
51	Outstanding Legal Issues upon Release	N	Some prisoners' legal issues may not have been resolved by the completion of their current sentence. They may therefore be released to a county jail or INS. Please note that some prisons' and jails' policies prohibit the placement of prisoners into certain programs or custody levels if they have outstanding legal
52	Date all outstanding legal issues are resolved	N	
53	Violation of restraining order part of current sentence	N	
54	Victim notification requirement	N	Some states require that prisons notify a victim before a prisoner is released if the prisoner committed a certain type of offense.

Variable	Confidentiality Issues?	Potential Solutions for Confidentiality Issues & Other Notes
Reentry Information		
NOTE: DOCs may maintain this information, but often it is maintained by other agencies and this information may not be linked to the DOC's database.		
55 Community supervision	N	Whether prisoner was released on parole and/or probation.
56 Parole/probation identifier	N	
57 Data on compliance with terms of supervision	N	
58 Data on new offenses	N	
59 Data on violations	N	
60 Ordered Supervision Term Days	N	
61 Actual Time Supervision Days	N	
62 Recidivism	N	