

ICPSR 8451

**Executions in the United States,
1608-2002: The ESPY File**

Description

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Bibliographic Description

ICPSR Study No.: 8451

Title: Executions in the United States, 1608-2002: The ESPY File

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Scope of Study

Summary: This collection furnishes data on executions performed under civil authority in the United States between 1608 and 2002. The dataset describes each individual executed and the circumstances surrounding the crime for which the person was convicted. Variables include age, race, name, sex, and occupation of the offender, place, jurisdiction, date, and method of execution, and the crime for which the offender was executed. Also recorded are data on whether the only evidence for the execution was official records indicating that an individual (executioner or slave owner) was compensated for an execution.

Subject Term(s): capital punishment, crime, executions, historical data, criminal justice system, offenders, offenses

Geographic Coverage: United States

Time Period: 1608 - 2002

Date(s) of Collection: 1970 - 2002

Universe: Executions that occurred under civil authority in the United States or within territory that later became the United States.

Data Type: aggregate data

Data Collection Notes: The codebook is provided by ICPSR as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided on the ICPSR Web site.

Methodology

Data Source: state Department of Corrections records, newspapers, county histories, proceedings of state and local courts, holdings of historical societies, and other listings of executions

Extent of Processing: Performed consistency checks.

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](#).

Original ICPSR Release: 1988-01-06

Version History: The last update of this study occurred on 2005-11-04.

2005-11-04 - On 2005-03-14 new files were added to one or more datasets. These files included additional setup files as well as one or more of the following: SAS program, SAS transport, SPSS portable, and Stata system files. The metadata record was revised 2005-11-04 to reflect these additions.

2004-02-27 - Data from the years 1992 through 2002 have been added to the data file. The SPSS and SAS data definition statements have been updated accordingly and Part 2 of this study, old SAS data definition statements will be removed, leaving all files in only one part. The ASCII codebook has also been updated and converted to a PDF file.

Dataset(s): • DS1: Executions in the United States, 1608-2002: The ESPY File