

Instructions for Downloading and Extracting CSV, SAS or SPSS Data Files from the Zip Files

The following is an explanation of how to extract the United States Sentencing Commission's data files available from the Commission's website.

The data downloads titled CSV are stored as comma delimited raw text ASCII (.csv) files, with variable names written in the first row.

The data downloads titled SAS/SPSS are stored as fixed-width ASCII (.dat) files, with variable names, types, and width information provided in both SAS and SPSS extraction syntax files so that users of either software package will be able to import the data.

In addition to the data files, we also provide codebooks that contain information on all the variables located on each of the Commission's data files. These files are located directly below the data files under each section on the Commission's website.

To extract and import either the SAS or SPSS data please read the following instructions:

To extract the SAS data file, do the following:

1. Download the Winzip file for the data file you are interested in from the website to the desired location on your computer.
2. Extract/Un-compress the three files contained in the Zip file using WinZip or some other file compression program.
3. Once the file has been un-compressed you should have three new files in the folder you specified a **.sas** syntax file, a **.sps** syntax file (which you will not need for this process) and a much larger **.dat** file containing the fixed-width delimited ASCII data.
4. Open the **.sas** syntax file in your SAS software package and follow the instructions at the beginning of the syntax. Prior to running the syntax, you will need to make the following updates:
 - a. Update the folder path in the FILENAME statement by replacing the '.' with the folder path location (e.g. 'C:\temp') of the corresponding **.dat** file on your computer.
 - b. Update the folder path in the LIBNAME statement, replacing the '.' with the folder path location (e.g. 'C:\temp') where you want the created SAS data file to be saved.
5. Once you have run/submitted the SAS syntax file, you should have a SAS dataset in the location you specified.
6. Follow the above procedure to create each of the data files of interest.

To extract the SPSS data file, do the following:

1. Download the Winzip file for the data file you are interested in from the website to the desired location on your computer.
2. Extract/Un-compress the three files contained in the Zip file using WinZip or some other file compression program.
3. Once the file has been un-compressed you should have three new files in the folder you specified a **.sps** syntax file, a **.sas** syntax file (which you will not need for this process) and a much larger **.dat** file containing the fixed width delimited ASCII data.
4. Open the **.sps** syntax file in your SPSS software package and follow the instructions at the beginning of the syntax. Prior to running the syntax, you will need to make the following updates:
 - a. Update the folder path in the FILE HANDLE DATA / NAME statement, replacing the '.' with the folder path location (e.g. 'C:\temp') of the corresponding .dat file on your computer.
 - b. Update the folder path in the SAVE OUTFILE statement at the end of the syntax, replacing the '.' with the folder path location (e.g. 'C:\temp') where you want the created SPSS data file to be saved.
5. Once you have run/submitted the SPSS syntax file, you should have a SPSS dataset in the location you specified.
6. Follow the above procedure to create each of the data files of interest.

The intention was to provide the Commission's data in a way that would be easily transferable to the user's computer system. If you have any problems downloading, extracting or creating the datasets please contact the Commission at AskORD@ussc.gov.