Introduction to the Collection of Criminal History Information

By: Christine Kitchens, M.A., Senior Research Associate

This issue of Research Notes describes how the Commission collects and reports criminal history information available in the Commission's individual datafile and criminal history datafile, and discusses analytical issues that may arise when using this data.

The United States Sentencing Commission ("the Commission") is an independent agency in the judicial branch of the federal government. The Commission's primary responsibility is to promulgate and amend the federal sentencing guidelines. The Commission has additional responsibilities, including (1) establishing a data collection, analysis, and research program to serve as a clearinghouse and information center for the collection, preparation, and dissemination of information on federal sentencing practices; (2) publishing data concerning the sentencing process; (3) collecting and disseminating information concerning sentences imposed and the relationship of such sentences to the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a); and (4) collecting and disseminating information regarding the effectiveness of sentences imposed.[1] To meet these responsibilities, the Commission collects data from sentencing documents sent directly from the federal courts.[2]

This publication explains how the Commission collects and reports criminal history information available in the Commission's individual datafile and criminal history datafile. In addition, it discusses analytical issues that may arise when using these variables.[3] Throughout the report, when key variables in either the Commission's individual datafile or criminal history datafile are discussed, variables are denoted by capital letters within brackets (e.g., [CRIMHIST]).

Office of Research and Data

CONTENTS

Research Notes give background information on the technical details of the Commission's data collection and analysis process. They are designed to help researchers use the Commission's datafiles by providing answers to common data analysis questions. **Helpful links:**

Commission Website
https://www.ussc.gov

Interactive Data Analyzer
https://ida.ussc.gov

Judiciary Sentencing Information
https://jsin.ussc.gov

Criminal History Computation

Chapter Four (Criminal History and Criminal Livelihood) in the *Guidelines Manual* instructs probation officers on how to apply the federal sentencing guidelines to calculate an individual's criminal history score. An individual's prior convictions are assigned points as determined by the Chapter Four rules, and the sum of those points then determine the Criminal History Category (CHC). The CHC makes up one of the two axes on the federal sentencing table.[4] In general, the greater the criminal history an individual has, the greater the applicable guideline range.[5] Therefore, an individual who has been convicted of multiple prior crimes will have a higher guideline range than an individual who committed a similar offense and has no criminal history.

Chapter Four of the *Guidelines Manual* instructs the probation officer on which prior convictions will receive points and how many points to assign each prior conviction based on the sentence length.[6] While only convictions can receive points, the variable [CRIMHIST] identifies if there has been <u>any</u> previous contact with law enforcement regardless of whether criminal history points were received.

An individual's criminal history points are determined by the sentence lengths of prior convictions. The *Guidelines Manual* details in §4A1.1(a) that all prior sentences exceeding one year and one day receive three points towards an individual's criminal history score.[7] This data is captured in the variable [POINT3], which is the number of prior convictions receiving three criminal history points. Prior sentences of at least 60 days but less than one year and one day receive two points according to §4A1.1(b).[8] This data is captured in the variable [POINT2], which is the number of prior convictions receiving two criminal history points. Finally, §4A1.1(c) provides that prior sentences of less than 60 days receive one point.[9] This data is captured in the variable [POINT1], which is the number of prior convictions receiving one criminal history point. One-point offenses are limited to a maximum of four points (*i.e.*, only four one-point offenses may be counted towards the individual's one-point total). The cap on one-point offenses was instituted to prevent short prior sentences from excessively increasing an individual's criminal history score. The data reported in these variables (*i.e.*, [POINT1], [POINT2], and [POINT3]) is the <u>number</u> of offenses that receive the specified points, not the sum of those points (*e.g.*, if the value for the field [POINT3] is "2", then the person has two three-point offenses).

The sum of the one, two, and three-point offenses is reported in the variable [CRIMPTS]. The variable [CRIMPTS] represents the sum of the criminal history points, not the sum of the number of offenses (*e.g.*, If [POINT1] = 4,

[POINT2] = 2 and [POINT3] = 2, then CRIMPTS = 14, which reflects the total <u>points</u>, <u>not</u> the total number of offenses with points). There is also an indicator variable [CRPTS] which reports whether the individual received <u>any</u> criminal history points for §4A1.1(a)–§4A1.1(c).

In addition to the points described above, individuals also receive points for previously uncounted violent offenses. Under §4A1.1(d), an individual will receive additional points for any violent offense which has not already been counted under the one, two, or three-point offenses described above due to multiple convictions being consolidated at prior sentencings.[10] In some cases, multiple offenses will be treated as a single offense for the purpose of assigning points under §4A1.1(a) through §4A1.1(c). However, if two violent offenses are treated as one, the guidelines allow for an additional "violence point" to be assessed for the second of the combined offenses. The number of additional points for violent priors not already counted under §4A1.1(a) through §4A1.1(c), is captured in the variable [VIOL1PTS]. There is a cap of three violent points allowed to be counted under §4A1.1(d).

Individuals also may receive points if they committed the instant offense (*i.e.*, the current offense of conviction) while under any other criminal justice sentence, including imprisonment, probation, parole, supervised release, work release, or while on escape status.[11] In such a case, additional points, commonly called "status points", may be added to the individual's criminal history score under §4A1.1(e).[12] The number of additional points for committing an offense while under any criminal justice sentence is captured in the variable [SENTPTS].

After the probation officer applies §4A1.1(a)-(e), the total number of criminal history points are calculated and reported in the variable [TOTCHPTS]. The probation officer then determines the individual's criminal history category based on the total number of points. The criminal history category is reported in the variable [XCRHISSR].[13] The criminal history category ranges from category I through category VI. Individuals with no, or very little, criminal history are assigned to criminal history category I. Individuals with the greatest number of criminal history points, at least 13 criminal history points, are assigned to criminal history category VI.

For most individuals, the points calculation completes the criminal history category portion of guideline application. However, Chapter Four, Parts B and C of the *Guidelines Manual* contain additional adjustments that apply to individuals with specified instant and/or prior convictions. These adjustments can change the criminal history category, the final offense level, or both.

Career Offenders and Criminal Livelihood (Chapter Four - Part B)

The most commonly applied adjustment in Chapter Four, Part B, is the Career Offender (CO) provision, detailed in §4B1.1. If an individual is at least 18 years of age, has at least two prior felony convictions for violent or controlled substance offenses, and the instant offense is a crime of violence or controlled substance offense, then an individual may be subject to both an increased final offense level and criminal history category.[14] The Commission's data contains an indicator variable [CAROFFAP] showing whether the CO provision was applied. The individual datafile also details the CO-determined offense level in a variable named [CAROFFLV].[15]

Once the CO offense level is computed (and no other Chapter Four adjustments apply), the probation officer next determines whether the individual is eligible to receive an offense level decrease under §3E1.1 (Acceptance of Responsibility).[16] The variable [CAROFFEN] details the extent of any adjustment in offense level under §3E1.1 for the CO computation. This value may be greater, or less, than the Acceptance of Responsibility value calculated in the Chapter Two and Three calculations. The acceptance value associated with the higher offense level computation (the Chapter Two/Three or the CO calculation) is reported in the final §3E1.1, Acceptance of Responsibility variable [ACCTRESP]. The Commission's individual datafile also reports the final offense level, which is the higher of the CO offense level or the Chapter Two and Three offense level. The variable name for the final offense level is [XFOLSOR].

The Commission's individual datafile contains additional information about the application of the CO provision detailed in §4B1.1. An additional requirement of CO application is that the individual's criminal history category must be VI.[17] The Commission's individual datafile captures this enhanced criminal history category in the variable [ACCCAT]. Since the CO criminal history category is always VI, then it is always greater than or equal to the final criminal history category calculated based on the criminal history points. Therefore, some individuals who receive the CO designation may have fewer than 13 total criminal history points.

The application of the CO table is covered in §4B1.1(c)(3) of the *Guidelines Manual*. The CO table provides for an enhanced guideline range for individuals with at least one count of conviction involving 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) or 18 U.S.C. § 929(a) (firearms offenses).[18] When the CO table is applied, the individual may receive an enhanced guideline range (without additional enhancements to the final offense level or criminal history category). This is the only scenario in which the final offense level and criminal history category will not triangulate with the guideline range (*i.e.*, the guideline range reported will not reflect the intersection of the final offense level and criminal history category on the sentencing table, it will be higher). For these cases, the CO table variable [CO924TAB] will indicate whether the table was applied and if §3E1.1, Acceptance of Responsibility was applied along with the table adjustment. The enhanced guideline range is indicated in the variables [XMINSOR] and [XMAXSOR].

Another Chapter Four, Part B enhancement is the Criminal Livelihood provision in §4B1.3 of the *Guidelines Manual*. This provision provides for a minimum Criminal Livelihood offense level if the offense of conviction is part of a pattern of criminal conduct engaged in as a livelihood. The minimum offense level is either 13, if the individual receives no Acceptance of Responsibility credit, or 11, if the individual receives Acceptance of Responsibility credit.[19] The variable for the offense level associated with the Criminal Livelihood provision is [CRIMLIV]. Note that this provision is rarely applied.[20]

The *Guidelines Manual* also provides for additional punishment for individuals who qualify for the Armed Career Criminal (ACCA) adjustment in §4B1.4 of the *Guidelines Manual*.[21] The Commission's individual datafile contains an indicator variable [ACCAP] reporting whether the provision applies. The datafile also contains the variable [ACCOFFLV] detailing the ACCA offense level. The variable [ARMCRIM] details any reduction in points under §3E1.1, Acceptance of Responsibility for the ACCA computation. This field may not match the Acceptance of Responsibility value calculated in the Chapter Two and Three calculations. The value associated with the higher offense level computation (the Chapter Two/Three or the ACCA calculation) is reported in the final §3E1.1, Acceptance of Responsibility variable [ACCTRESP]. The Commission's individual datafile also reports the final offense level, which is the higher of the ACCA offense level or the Chapter Two and Three offense level. That variable is [XFOLSOR].

An additional requirement of ACCA application is that the individual's criminal history category is at least IV.[22] The Commission's individual datafile captures this enhanced criminal history category in the variable [ACCCAT]. Because the ACCA criminal history category requirement exists, the CHC from ACCA may be different than the CHC calculated from the criminal history points.

Some individuals who receive ACCA also qualify for the CO provision as well. The Commission's datafile will reflect a value of "1" for both the ACCA and the CO indicator variables, [ACCAP] and [CAROFFAP] in that scenario. Both the ACCA and CO offense levels and Acceptance of Responsibility values are collected separately. However, only the higher of the criminal history categories is recorded in the enhanced criminal history category field named [ACCCAT]. In a scenario where both the ACCA and the CO

provisions are applied, the highest offense level from the CO, ACCA, or Chapter Two and Three guideline calculation will be reflected in the final offense level variable [XFOLSOR].

The final provision in Chapter Four, Part B, addresses Repeat and Dangerous Sex Offenders (RSO) against minors in §4B1.5 of the manual. This provision has two parts which enhance the guideline application in different ways.

The first part of the RSO provision, §4B1.5(a), applies to individuals whose instant offense is a sex offense, to whom the CO provision in §4B1.1 does not apply, and who have at least one prior sex offense conviction.[23] These individuals are subject to an enhanced offense level determined by the statutory maximum-based table that is used in the CO application. The variable which indicates the offense level associated with this provision is [SEXOFFNA].[24] Individuals to whom this provision applies are eligible for a reduction under Acceptance of Responsibility, indicated by the variable [SEXACCA]. Note that this field may be higher or lower than the Chapter Three acceptance value and that the value associated with the higher computation is reported in the final acceptance field [ACCTRESP]. The Commission reports a final offense level ([XFOLSOR]) which is the higher of the RSO

offense level or the Chapter Two and Three offense level (assuming no other higher Chapter Four enhancements apply).

An additional requirement of the first part of the RSO application is that the individual's criminal history category must be at least V.[25] The Commission's datafile captures this enhanced criminal history category at [ACCCAT]. Since the RSO subsection (a) criminal history category is always at least V, it may not match the criminal history category determined by criminal history points under §4A1.1. Whichever application results in the higher criminal history category will be recorded in the final criminal history category, [XCRHISSR].

The second part of the RSO provision, §4B1.5(b), applies to individuals whose instant offense is a sex offense, to whom the §4B1.1 CO provision and the first prong of §4B1.5 does not apply, and who have a pattern of activity involving prohibited sexual conduct. These individuals are subject to five additional offense levels (added to the Chapter Two/Three computation), and a minimum offense level of 22.[26] The Commission captures this RSO offense level in its datafile as the variable [SEXOFFNB].[27] These individuals also are eligible for a reduction under Acceptance of Responsibility, indicated by the variable [SEXACCB]. Note that this field may be higher than the Chapter Three acceptance value and that the value associated with the higher computation is reported in the final acceptance field, [ACCTRESP]. This second part of the RSO guideline does not change the CHC determined by criminal history points under §4A1.1.

Researchers may be interested in comparing offense levels from the Chapter Two and Three application and the enhanced levels under the Career Offender, Armed Career Criminal, Criminal Livelihood, or Repeat and Dangerous Sex Offender provisions to see if the Chapter Four Adjustments increased the offense level. Researchers should compare the highest adjusted Chapter Two and Three offense level prior to the inclusion of Acceptance of Responsibility, called [ADJOFLHI] (if using the primary sentencing guideline, [GDLINEHI]),

with the enhanced levels under the Career Offender [CAROFFLV], Armed Career Criminal [ACCOFFLV], or Repeat and Dangerous Sex Offender provisions [SEXOFFNA, SEXOFFNB] which are also recorded prior to the inclusion of Acceptance of Responsibility. Note that the Criminal Livelihood offense level [CRIMLIV] already includes acceptance, any value should be reduced by the levels of Acceptance of Responsibility applied to make it comparable with the other variables.[28]

Adjustment for Certain Zero Point Offenders (Chapter Four - Part C)

Chapter Four, Part C, of the manual provides an adjustment for Zero Point Offenders (§4C1.1). In general, if an individual has no criminal history points and did not use violence or cause bodily injury, or commit certain types of serious offenses, this provision reduces the offense level determined under Chapters Two and Three by two (no other Chapter Four adjustment should be applicable).[29] The variable [ZEROPNT] indicates when this adjustment has been applied.

Changes to Guideline Calculations at Sentencing

The Commission's datafile includes complete guideline application information[30] and information on individual's criminal history computation. Generally, this information is recorded in the Pre-Sentence Report (PSR), written by the probation officer.[31] In some cases, the court makes decisions at the time of sentencing which change the guideline calculations in the PSR. The PSR calculations may mismatch with the final court findings for the FOL and CHC on the SOR. Mismatches are documented in the variable [SOURCES]. It is important for researchers doing an analysis using criminal history points or the Chapter Four Adjustments to consider screening on the [SOURCES] variable. Screening on the [SOURCES] variable would only include cases in which both documents match, or cases in which any differences which were able to be resolved.[32]

Criminal History Variables in the Criminal History Datafile

The Commission began collecting additional information about the prior criminal history events in fiscal year 2016. The Criminal History datafile includes events that resulted in an adjudication or conviction regardless of whether the events received criminal history points under the guidelines. The Criminal History datafile does NOT contain specific information about the individual's prior sentence length(s).[33]

The number of criminal history events for each individual is recorded in the variable [EVENTNUM]. A single criminal history event may contain multiple conviction charges. Therefore, the datafile contains information on up to eight charges for each criminal history event. The number of offenses is specified as [CHOFF1_1] thru [CHOFF8_X]. The first number indicates the first through eighth offense and the second number after the underscore denotes the event number. Therefore [CHOFF2_3] is the 2nd offense recorded for the 3rd event. Note that many of the events will only have one or two offenses recorded, so many of the fields [CHOFF1_1] thru [CHOFF8_X] may be blank.

Additional information also is collected for each criminal history event. The variable names for the dates of arrest are [CHARDT1-CHARDTX], and the variables for age-at-arrest are [CHAGE1-CHAGEX].[34] For each prior criminal history event, the state in which the sentencing occurred is collected in the variables [CHSTATE1-CHSTATEX]. There are also variables for each event to denote whether the event was sentenced in federal [CHFED1-CHFEDX] or tribal court [CHTRIB1-CHTRIBX]. The state location information is collected even when the event was processed in federal court. The variables [CHPTS1-CHPTSX] record how many criminal history points were assigned to the criminal history event when calculating the individual's criminal history during the instant offense sentencing process. The guidelines which denote why the criminal history points

were applied or not are recorded in the text fields [CHGDL1-CHGDLX].

The information in both the criminal history datafile and the individual datafiles can be joined together to provide information about individual's prior criminal history and instant offense. The variable [USSCIDN] is a unique identifier assigned to each individual original sentencing when it is received at the Commission. This variable will match up the same individual on both datafiles. This variable allows researchers to merge the two datafiles together within the same fiscal year.

The Commission's annual individual datafile and the Criminal History datafile are both available for download in SAS or SPSS formats along with the corresponding codebooks at https://www.ussc.gov/research/datafiles/commission-datafiles. For any data related questions, please contact the Commission at askORD@ussc.gov. To keep current with new Commission news and publications, please follow the Commission on the X account @theusscgov.

Endnotes

1   The United States Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch of the federal government. Established by the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, its principal purposes are (1) to establish sentencing policies and practices for the federal courts, including guidelines regarding the appropriate form and severity of punishment for sentenced individuals convicted of federal crimes; (2) to advise and assist Congress, the federal judiciary, and the executive branch in the development of effective and efficient crime policy; and (3) to collect, analyze, research, and distribute a broad array of information on federal crime and sentencing issues. 28 U.S.C. § 995(a)(12)–(20).

2   The Commission collects information for every federal felony and Class A misdemeanor offense sentenced each year. Sentencing courts are statutorily required to submit five sentencing documents to the Commission within 30 days of entry of judgment in a criminal case, including (1) the charging document; (2) the plea agreement; (3) the Presentence Report; (4) the Judgment and Commitment Order; and (5) the Statement and Reasons form. 28 U.S.C. § 994(w)(1). For more information about the datafile collection process at the Commission, see CHRISTINE KITCHENS, U.S. SENT'G COMM'N, RESEARCH NOTES: COMMISSION COLLECTION OF INDIVIDUAL OFFENDER DATA (2019). Commission materials cited herein are available on the Commission's website at www.ussc.gov.

3   The Commission's individual datafiles from FY2002 forward are available for download, along with the codebook describing all the available variables and values. See U.S. Sent'g Comm'n, *Commission Datafiles*, https://www.ussc.gov/research/datafiles/commission-datafiles (last visited Feb. 5, 2025). The Commission does not provide the statistical analysis programs (SAS or SPSS). The statistical analysis programs need to be purchased by the user. The datafiles provided on the Commission's website are mainly intended to be used by outside researchers who are familiar with or learning about the federal sentencing guidelines as well as analyzing large data sources using the specialty software. The Commission provides the datafiles and various resources about the datafiles (including the Research Notes publication series), the federal sentencing guidelines, etc. on its website. However, researchers should recognize that it will take an investment of both time and money if the researcher does not already have a statistical analysis program and is unfamiliar with either the federal sentencing guidelines or the Commission's datafiles. Note that not all variables mentioned in this paper exist for all years of data collected by the Commission. Please consult the codebook for information about variable and value changes over time.

4   The federal sentencing table is found at the beginning of Chapter Five in the *Guidelines Manual*. See U.S. SENT'G COMM'N, GUIDELINES MANUAL CH.5, PT.A (Nov. 2024) [hereinafter USSG]. The table is a grid made up of the offense level and the criminal history category. The place on the grid where the offense level and criminal history category intersect is the individual's guideline range.

5   See USSG Ch.4. The fields [XMINSOR] and [XMAXSOR] refer to the un-trumped guideline range (prior to any statutory constraints or consecutive additions being applied). Throughout this paper whenever the term "guideline range" is used it refers to the guideline range prior to any statutory trumping.

6   See USSG Ch.4 (detailing information about how the criminal history category is computed).

7   USSG §4A1.1(a). Prior sentences receiving criminal history points are subject to recency and age restrictions. See USSG §4A1.1, comment. (nn.1–5).

8   USSG §4A1.1(b).

9   USSG §4A1.1(c).

10   USSG §4A1.1(d).

11   USSG §4A1.1(e).

12   USSG §4A1.1, comment. (n.5) ("One point is added if the defendant (1) receives 7 or more points under §4A1.1(a) through (d), and (2) committed any part of the instant offense (*i.e.*, any relevant conduct) while under any criminal justice sentence, including probation, parole, supervised release, imprisonment, work release, or escape status. Failure to report for service of a sentence of imprisonment is to be treated as an escape from such sentence."). Note that prior to the 2023 *Guidelines Manual*, individuals received two "status points" regardless of the amount of criminal history points and this was cited in §4A1.1(d) while violent points were referenced in §4A1.1(e). See USSG App. C, amend. 821 (effective Nov. 1, 2023).

13   Note that the point-based criminal history category is expressed in Roman numerals as I–VI.

14   USSG §4B1.1.

15   Note that the CO offense level is <u>usually</u> higher than the offense level computed under Chapters Two and Three, but this is not always true. The CO offense level is based on the statutory maximum of the offense (*i.e.*, If the individual is convicted of a statute with a low statutory maximum, then the CO offense level will be low).

16   USSG §3E1.1.

17   USSG §4B1.1(b).

18   USSG §4B1.1(c)(3).

19   USSG §4B1.3. The offense level changes from 13 to 11 since offenders are only eligible for 2 levels of acceptance of responsibility credit when the offense level is less than 16 as per §3E1.1.

20   The Criminal Livelihood provision was only applied to three individuals in FY2023. See U.S. SENT'G

COMM'N, 2023 SOURCEBOOK OF FEDERAL SENTENCING STATISTICS tbl. 23 (2024).

21 USSG §4B1.4. These offenders have a conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 924(e) which carries a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty. *Id.* This statute applies to a felon in possession of a weapon who "has three previous convictions by any court referred to in section 922(g)(1) of this title for a violent felony or a serious drug offense, or both, committed on occasions different from one another . . ." 18 U.S.C. § 924(e).

22 *See* USSG §4B1.4(c) (detailing information about the determination of criminal history category under the ACCA provision).

23 USSG §4B1.5(a).

24 Note that the RSO offense level is usually higher than the offense level computed under Chapters Two and Three, but that this is not always true since the RSO offense level is based on the statutory maximum of the offense.

25 USSG §4B1.5(a)(2).

26 USSG §4B1.5(b).

27 Note that the RSO offense level is always higher than the offense level computed under Chapters Two and Three since an additional five levels are added to that computation.

28 Similarly, researchers interested in determining how many individuals had their criminal history category enhanced by the provisions of one of the Chapter Four, Part B provisions would need to compare the criminal history category determined under §4A1.1 (based on the total number of criminal history points) the enhanced criminal history category from the Career Offender, Armed Career Criminal, or Repeat and Danger Sex Offender provisions. Although the Commission's datafile does not record the point-driven criminal history category when it is lower than the enhanced categories under the Career Offender, Armed Career Criminal, or Repeat and Danger Sex Offender provisions, researchers can easily create the point-driven category. The total number of criminal history points are recorded on the datafile as the variable [TOTCHPTS]. The points would simply need to be assigned to a created category (*e.g.*, if [TOTCHPTS] is zero or one, then the point-driven category is I, if [TOTCHPTS] is two or three, then the point-driven category is II, etc.). Such analysis would be useful for researchers who wanted to examine the actual number of cases that received an enhanced criminal history category from the Career Offender, Armed Career Criminal, or Repeat and Danger Sex Offender provisions.

29 *See* USSG §4C1.1.

30 For more information about how the Commission collects Chapter Two and Three guideline application information, please see CHRISTINE KITCHENS, U.S. SENT'G COMM'N, RESEARCH NOTES: CHAPTER TWO AND THREE GUIDELINE

APPLICATION INFORMATION (2020).

31 The probation officer first calculates the guideline application for an individual and documents it in the PSR. Both parties (the government and the defense) review the PSR and can make objections. If objections are made to the guideline calculations, then the judge will resolve the dispute at the time of sentencing. If changes are made to the calculations in the PSR, the court notes these changes in the appropriate Chapter Two, Three, and Four Changes sections on the SOR, and reports the changed final offense level and guideline range prior to any departures or variances. The Commission then records the changes and the updated guideline calculation provided by the court.

32 For more information about the [SOURCES] variable, please see CASSANDRA SYCKES, U.S. SENT'G COMM'N, RESEARCH NOTES: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF [SOURCES] RESOLVING GUIDELINE APPLICATION DISCREPANCIES IN FEDERAL SENTENCING DOCUMENTS (2020). When the court records changes on the SOR form, the variables [CHP2CHG1-CHP2CHGX] note the 1st through Nth Chapter Two changes. If the Chapter Two change is not one of the more common choices on the menu, "other" is coded, and the corresponding text fields, [CHP2TXT1-CHP2TXTX], are filled-in. Chapter Three changes are documented in the variables [CHP3CHG1-CHP3CHGX] to note the 1st through Nth Chapter Three changes. If the Chapter Three change is not one of the more common choices on the menu, "other" is coded, and the corresponding text fields, [CHP3TXT1-CHP3TXTX], are filled-in. Similar fields record the Chapter Four criminal history changes ([CHP4CHG1-CHP4CHGX], and [CHP4TXT1-CHP4TXTX]).

33 The criminal history points associated with each event which can be used as a proxy for sentence length to some extent.

34 Note that the criminal history datafile does include juvenile adjudication events when detailed in the PSR.