# UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

## VARIABLE CODEBOOK FOR INDIVIDUAL OFFENDERS

## SUPPLEMENTAL RESEARCH DATA DOCUMENTATION FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 - 2017

# INTRODUCTION

The United States Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch of government. Its principal purposes are: (1) to establish sentencing policies and practices for the federal courts, including guidelines to be consulted regarding the appropriate form and severity of punishment for offenders convicted of federal crimes; (2) to advise and assist Congress 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, serving as an information resource for Congress, the executive branch, the courts, criminal justice practitioners, the academic community, and the public.

The Commission collects several datafiles on a yearly basis. This codebook discusses the data available in the Commission's individual offender datafile. The individual offender datafile consists of original sentences for offenders who have been convicted and sentenced under the guidelines in the federal court system. It does not include information about defendants who were found not guilty of all charges (or who had all charges dropped), corporate offenders, or any appeals or re-sentence information.

Understanding the federal sentencing guidelines is crucial to properly using the Commission's data. To learn more about the Commission and the federal sentencing guidelines, please visit the Commission's website, https://www.ussc.gov/. The Commission's website makes available ALL the guideline manuals (both current and past) at https://www.ussc.gov/guidelines/archive. ***Using multiple years of Guidelines Manuals is necessary for most guideline analysis due to yearly amendments in the guidelines. In a single fiscal year of data, offenders are sentenced under different amendment years of Guidelines Manuals.***

In addition, the Commission's website has publications which discuss various topics available at: https://www.ussc.gov/research/topical-index-publications. In addition, guideline training primers are available at: https://www.ussc.gov/guidelines/primers. Additional education and training about the federal sentencing guidelines is available at: https://www.ussc.gov/education.

The United States Sentencing Commission collects demographic, sentencing, and guideline application information on cases which are sentenced under the guidelines in the federal court system. The Commission has many data publications available such as:

1) The *Annual Report* and *Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*
   https://www.ussc.gov/research/sourcebook/archive
2) District or circuit-based analysis as compared with national statistics
   https://www.ussc.gov/research/data-reports/geography
3) Frequencies about guideline application information
   https://www.ussc.gov/research/data-reports/guideline
4) Commission reports which were sent to Congress
   https://www.ussc.gov/research/reports-congress

This codebook contains information on variables which come directly from the individual offender's database created in the Office of Research and Data (ORD). The supplemental variables described in this codebook were newly created in fiscal year 2018 to reflect the methodological changes made in the Fiscal Year 2018 edition of the United States Sentencing Commission's *Sourcebook of Federal*

*Sentencing.*  The variables are included here to allow researchers the ability to utilize these new variables on four prior years of data.  In order to fully utilize the supplemental data, researchers must match the supplemental files to their corresponding individual offender files for the given fiscal year (*i.e.*, match the FY2014 supplemental file to the FY2014 individual offender datafile).  This can be accomplished using the Commission's unique identifier (USSCIDN) present on both the original individual offender file and these supplemental files.

The Commission's individual offender datafiles are available for download in either SPSS or SAS formats at https://www.ussc.gov/research/datafiles/commission-datafiles.

## How to Use the USSC Codebook

The first column in the codebook, NAME, lists the name of each variable in alphabetical order. Under the variable names, the corresponding research variable name (if one exists) will be listed as: R=Research variable name. The research variables are generally those used in the Commission's publications such as the *Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*.

The second column, ORIGIN, lists the source of the variable. Variables are either taken from a specific document submitted by the courts, or produced by ORD based on data collected from the source documents. This column also includes information on the source document of the raw data. The following list defines the codes for variable origins.

- JC means the information for the variable is obtained solely from the Judgment and Conviction Order.

- PSR states the information for this variable comes only from the Pre-sentencing Report generated by the probation officer.

- JC/PSR indicates the information may be found either on the Judgment and Conviction Order or in the Presentencing Report, with the Judgment and Conviction Order given preference if the information conflicts.

- SOR indicates that the information for the variable is taken only from the Statement of Reasons.

- PSR/SOR means the information for this variable comes from the PSR, but the SOR information is used if it is present and/or conflicts with the PSR.

- PLEA indicates the information comes primarily from the plea agreement.

- IND indicates the information is taken mainly from the indictment/information.

- R indicates the information is generated from other variables. These are referred to as the "research variables".

The third column, FORM, describes whether the variable is coded as numeric (NUM), character (CHAR), or date (DATE). This column also lists the length of each variable.

The fourth column, CODES, lists all the values for each variable and describes what those values mean. Some of the variables have a large number of values, so these values are listed in Attachment A at the end of the codebook.

The final column, DESCRIPTION, describes the uses and creation of each variable. This column also contains notes which caution users about variables which have changed definitions from previous years, or not contained on all years of the data sets. Format statements are also included in bold at the end of each description. These formats will allow users to access the format statements. Since SAS format statements cannot end in a number, all variables which end in a number "1" will have format statements that end with an "O". Variables which end with a "2" will have format statements ending in "T."

Attachments have been included at the back of the codebook to elaborate on variable information. A code attachment which provides values of lengthy variables follows the codebook. *An index is also included to assist in finding variable names by subject.*

| NAME | ORIGIN | FORM | CODES | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MNTHDEPT** | R | NUM 4 | Range: 0.01 thru 9997<br>· = Missing , Indeterminable, Inapplicable, or Probation | The difference in months between the guideline minimum (GLMIN) and the sentence length, including alternatives and probation as 0 months or incarceration (SENSPCAP). Only present for above and below range cases where the GLMIN is greater than 0 and less than life and the sentence is not life. Large values of GLMIN/MAX above sentencing table excluded from calcs.<br><br>**NO SAS FORMAT.** |
| **OFFGUIDE** | R | NUM 3 | 1 = Administration of Justice<br>2 = Antitrust<br>3 = Arson<br>4 = Assault<br>5 = Bribery/Corruption<br>6 = Burglary/Trespass<br>7 = Child Pornography<br>8 = Commercialized Vice<br>9 = Drug Possession<br>10 = Drug Trafficking<br>11 = Environmental<br>12 = Extortion/Racketeering<br>13 = Firearms<br>14 = Food and Drug<br>15 = Forgery/Counter/Copyright<br>16 = Fraud/Theft/Embezzlement<br>17 = Immigration<br>18 = Individual Rights<br>19 = Kidnapping<br>20 = Manslaughter<br>21 = Money Launder<br>22 = Murder<br>23 = National Defense<br>24 = Obscenity/Other Sex Offenses<br>25 = Prison Offenses<br>26 = Robbery<br>27 = Sex Abuse<br>28 = Stalking/Harassing<br>29 = Tax<br>30 = Other<br>  . = Missing | Primary type of crime for the case generated mainly from the primary guideline and then the count of conviction with the highest statutory maximum.<br><br>**Note: _Commission publications use OFFGUIDE starting in FY2018._**<br><br>**FORMAT:  OFFGUIDE.** |
| **PCNTDEPT** | R | NUM 4 | Range: 0.0 thru 100.0<br>· = Missing , Indeterminable, Inapplicable, or Probation | The percent difference between the guideline minimum (GLMIN) and the sentence length, including alternatives and probation as 0 months or incarceration (SENSPCAP). Only present for above and below range cases where the GLMIN is greater than 0 and less than life and the sentence is not life. Large values of GLMIN/MAX above sentencing table excluded from calcs.<br><br>**NO SAS FORMAT.** |

| NAME | ORIGIN | FORM | CODES | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SENSPCAP** | R | NUM 8.2 | Range:  0 thru 469.99<br>    0 = Probation<br>470 = Life<br>   · = Missing, Indeterminable, or Inapplicable | The total prison sentence, in months, plus alternatives, **with zeros (probation) and sentences greater than 470 are capped at 469.99**.  Missing terms are set to " ·".  This field includes sentences of time imposed, time served, and §5G1.3 credit.  ***Alternatives include home detention, community confinement, and intermittent confinement.  This variable does not take ZONE into account. See Appendix B of the United States Sentencing Commission Variable Codebook for Individual Offenders for more information about USSC sentencing variables. This field is available.***<br><br>**NO SAS FORMAT.** |
| **SENTRNGE** | R | NUM 3 | 0 =      Within Range<br>1 =      Upward Departure<br>2 =      5K1.1/Substantial Assistance<br>3 =      Early Disposition/5K3.1<br>4 =      Government Sponsored<br>         Departure<br>5 =      Downward Departure<br>6 =      Above Range Variance<br>7 =      Government Sponsored<br>         Variance<br>8 =      Below Range Variance<br>· =      Missing, Indeterminable, or<br>         Inapplicable | Assigns cases to one of the 8 post-*Booker* reporting categories based on relationship between the sentence and guideline range and the reason(s) given for being outside of the range.  For more detailed information on the new post-*Booker* reporting categories, please see Appendix A of the Commission's most recent *Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*.<br><br>***Note: This field replaced BOOKERCD in Commission publications starting in FY2018.***<br><br>**FORMAT: SENTRNGE.** |
| **SENTTCAP** | R | NUM 8.2 | Range:  0.01 thru 469.99<br>470 = Life<br>· = Missing , Indeterminable, Inapplicable, or Probation | The total prison sentence (excluding months of alternative confinement), in months, **without zeros (probation) and sentences greater than 470 are capped at 469.99**.  Zero terms and missing cases are set to "·".  This field includes sentences of time imposed, time served, and §5G1.3 credit.  ***See Appendix B of the United States Sentencing Commission Variable Codebook for Individual Offenders for more information about USSC sentencing variables.***<br><br>**NO SAS FORMAT.** |
| **USSCIDN** | PSR/JC | NUM 6 | Range: 6 Numbers | Unique sequential identification number given to cases upon receipt at USSC.<br><br>**NO SAS FORMAT.** |