

Contact with Police/Court System

Year 19

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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Citation

Instrument

Huizinga, D. (1991). *Denver Youth Survey: Youth Interview Schedule*. Boulder, Colorado: The University of Colorado, Institute of Behavior Sciences, available from the author, David.Huizinga@colorado.edu

Report

Sandoval, J. M. (2011) Contact with Police/Court System (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Raw: C19CK

Scored: CPC19

I. Survey Description

The Contact with Police/Court System is a 29-item instrument designed to measure the respondent contact with the police and court system. The questionnaire probes from traffic violations to felonies. The questionnaire is an adaptation of the original measure designed by Huizinga which contained 41 items (Denver Youth Survey). The measure "Police Contact" was used for years 8, 9 11, and 12. The current measure Contact with Police/Court System was first added to the Fast Track Protocol in study year 19.

The participant reports all their arrest history and answers detailed questions regarding up to three arrests in the previous year. Contact with Police/Court System asks the respondent for the occurrence of traffic violations. The questionnaire then proceeds to establish arrests and charges for misdemeanor offenses and felonies. The instrument did not work correctly in asserting charges. The user will find responses for questions which should have been skipped. Also open-ended responses were collected when the respondent asserted "other charges". The respondents entered data sometimes incorrectly with varying misspellings. Also the use of acronyms to describe the offense is used extensively. The user is encouraged to examine these in order to complete data corresponding to charges, convictions and court actions.

II. Report Sample

These analyses were conducted on the first cohort on the high-risk Control sample (n = 125) and the Normative sample (n = 254) for the nineteenth year of the study. The distribution of respondents by site was as follows: for the Control sample, 36 were from Durham, 26 were from Nashville, 36 were from Pennsylvania and 27 were from Washington. For the Normative sample, 75 were from Durham, 47 were from Nashville, 73 were from Pennsylvania and 59 were from Washington.

III. Frequencies Tables

The following tables show frequencies for variables asked in logical order. For Misdemeanor and Felonies, the respondent is asked sequentially for the first, second and third charges. This report only displays frequencies for the first charge.

Traffic Violations

During the LAST 12 MONTHS, have you ever been FINED for: reckless driving?	Group		
Frequency	Control	Normative	Total
Yes	4	7	11
No	119	243	362
During the LAST 12 MONTHS, have you ever been FINED for: driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI)?	Group		
Frequency	Control	Normative	Total
Yes	9	3	12
No	114	247	361

During the LAST 12 MONTHS, have you ever been FINED for: a moving violation (i.e. speeding)?	Group		
	Control	Normative	Total
Yes	24	43	67
No	97	208	305

Note: answers "I prefer not to answer" have been omitted.

Misdemeanor

LAST 12 MONTHS, have you ever been arrested and charged with a MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE? If "No", indicate and skip to the next page.	Group		
	Control	Normative	Total
Yes	22	15	37
No	101	238	339

Felonies

Q544. LAST 12 MONTHS, have you ever been arrested and charged with a FELONY? (If "No", indicate and skip to the next page.)	Group		
	Control	Normative	Total
Yes	7	4	11
No	116	247	363
I prefer not to answer	2	3	5
Total	125	254	379

V. Recommendations for Use

The tables shown above display the frequencies for a selected group of variables. The user is encouraged to test association between items and sample group. For some items there is significant association (not shown). The user must be aware that the logical skips did not work correctly. Some tables report more cases than logically established when misdemeanor and felonies are computed from the open ended responses. The user is encouraged to examine the responses to the first, second and third charges and construct variables accordingly.