

## What is the Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004?

The Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities (SISFCF) was designed to aid policymakers in their assessment and remediation of deficiencies in the United States' correctional facilities and is comprised of the following two surveys:

- **Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities (SISCF)**—designed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)
- **Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities (SIFCF)**—designed jointly by the BJS and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)

Conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, these two surveys collectively provide nationally representative data on inmates held in state and federally owned and operated prisons. A sample of 18,185 inmates were interviewed from October 2003 through May 2004, representing the sixth data collection effort (previously conducted in 1974, 1979, 1986, 1991, and 1997) of inmates in *State* correctional facilities (n=14,499, nonresponse rate=10.2%) and the third collection effort (previously conducted in 1991 and 1997) of inmates in *Federal* correctional facilities (n=3,686, nonresponse rate=13.3%). A new release of the SISFCF is expected in the near future.

## What does the SISFCF 2004 offer family scholars?

The SISFCF 2004 is a rich resource for studies examining the linkages between the family and incarceration. In addition to individual demographic characteristics of the inmates (e.g., age, sex, race/ethnicity), the data provide researchers with information on any past military service, medical and mental health history and treatment, and education and income prior to incarceration. With respect to deviant and criminal behavior, data are also provided regarding current offenses and sentences—including characteristics of victims; their criminal histories; gun possession and use; and prior drug and alcohol use and treatment. Questions are also asked regarding the inmates' peers and their deviant behaviors as well as the inmates' own histories of victimization.

With respect to the family, inmates were asked questions regarding their family background—with whom they lived growing up, their family welfare use, whether their parents/guardians abused alcohol/drugs, number of siblings, and whether parents, siblings or other relatives were sentenced or served time in jail. The following detailed questions regarding inmates' children are asked:

- age(s) of child(ren) when inmate was incarcerated;
- child(ren)'s current age(s);
- child(ren)'s relationship(s) to inmate—bio, step, adopted;
- whether the inmate provided sole monetary and/or instrumental support to their child(ren) prior to their incarceration;
- with whom the child(ren) are currently living; and
- whether the inmate had contact with their child(ren) while incarcerated—via phone, mail, or personal visits.

Regarding inmates own intimate relationships, their current marital status is obtained as well as information regarding whether the spouse or boy/girl-friend had ever been sentenced or served time in jail. For a detailed summary of the SISFCF data specific to incarcerated parents, see the BJS Special Report, [Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children](#).

## Using SISFCF 2004 Data

[Related literature, file manifest, and codebook](#) (must be a registered user and associated with a member institution to receive access to certain data holdings and information through ICPSR) for the SISFCF 2004 are publically available through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) via the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). In analyzing SISFCF 2004 data, researchers should take into account the complex sampling methods used and include the appropriate sampling and respondent weights. Users should also note that weights for Federal and State inmates were calculated separately. A brief overview of the numerous sampling weights associated with the SISFCF can be found in the [Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities Resource Guide](#).

## How do I access the data?

The SISFCF 2004 is publically available through the NACJD via ICPSR. The data are available as SAS XPORT, SPSS Portable, and ASCII files and are distributed separately for State inmates and Federal inmates. Restricted-use data are also available by contractual agreement only. Contract application materials and forms (AKA, User Agreement—*must be a [registered user](#) and associated with a member institution to receive access to certain data holdings and information through ICPSR*) are available on the NACJD website. For more information regarding SISFCF restricted use data, please contact:

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Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research  
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## Where can I learn more about the SISFCF 2004 data?

See the Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities Resource Guide for more information about the 2004 data at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/sisfcf/#Using>.

You can learn more about the SISFCF project in general at the [Bureau of Justice Statistics, Data Collections: Corrections](#). Be sure to scroll down the page for direct links to the [Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities](#) and the [Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities](#).