

Criminal Justice Administrative Records System

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- This presentation meets all of the U.S. Census Bureau's Disclosure Review Board (DRB) standards and has been assigned DRB approval number CBDRB-FY22-ERD002-003.

Outline

- 1 Project summary
- 2 Project detail
- 3 Project insights
- 4 Data accessibility and user-base

What is CJARS?

- Data infrastructure project to support the next generation of statistics and research on the criminal justice system
- Partnership between Census Bureau and University of Michigan (UM) started in 2016
- UM collects and harmonizes state and local criminal justice data
 - Event-level criminal justice data with nationwide scope
 - Tracking across key milestones in the justice system
 - Authority to transfer records to U.S. Census Bureau
- At Census Bureau, these data can be linked to survey and administrative records

Why CJARS?

Incomplete criminal justice data infrastructure:

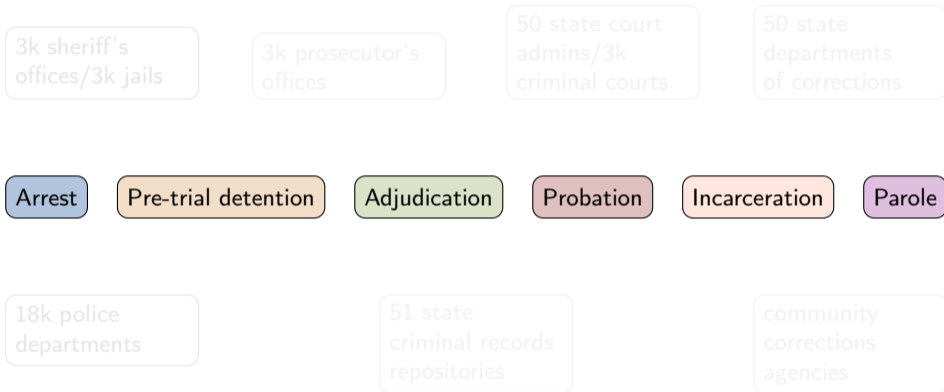
- Limits how performance is measured, which policy questions are asked
- Leads to inconsistent recidivism definitions
- Makes it difficult to identify effective policy levers
- Prevents comprehensive benefit-cost analyses

- Collect, harmonize, and link longitudinal, multi-jurisdictional CJ data to track individuals and cases across space and time
- Embed criminal justice contact and policy within broader socio-economic data
- Enable timely and innovative federal statistical products about CJ system and justice-involved population
- Provide national research platform for qualified researchers on approved projects

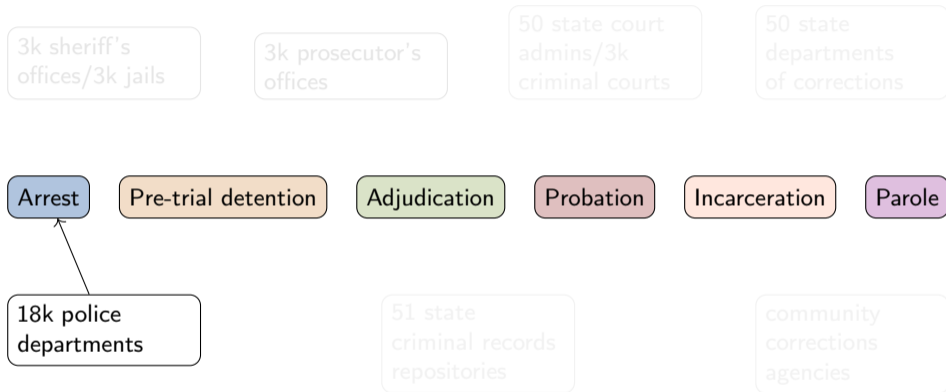
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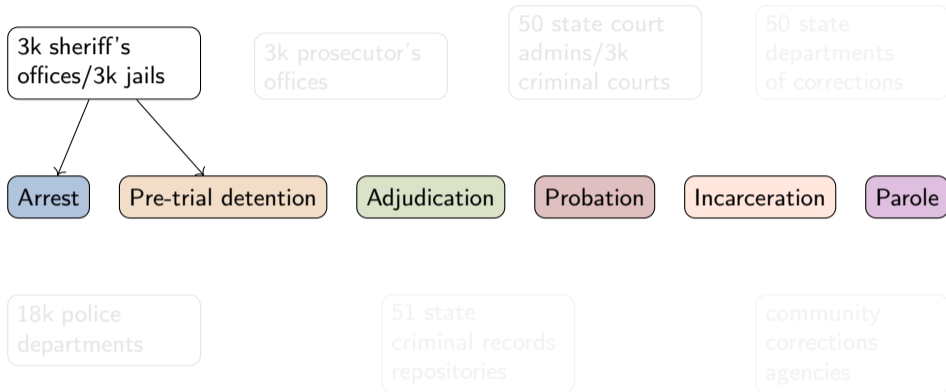
Project scope and data collection



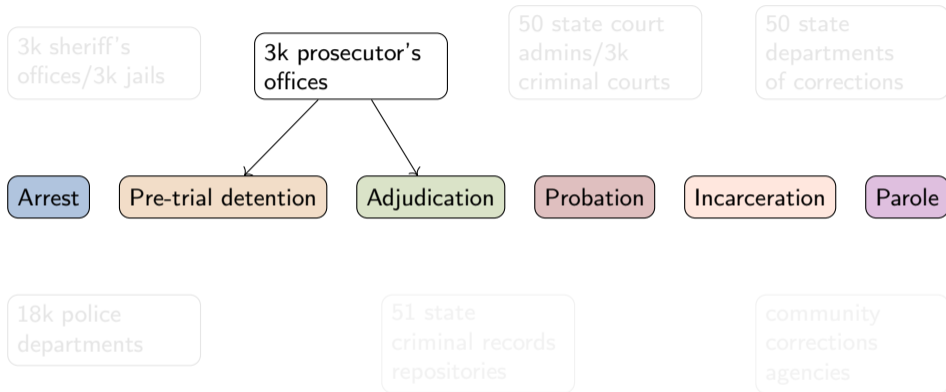
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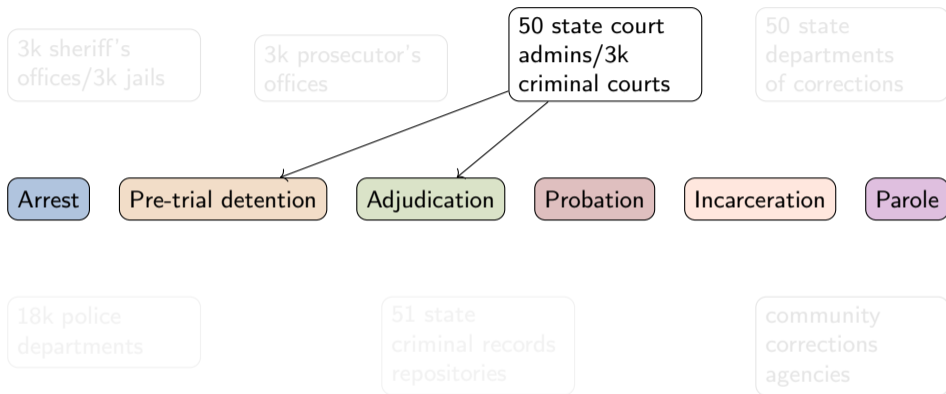
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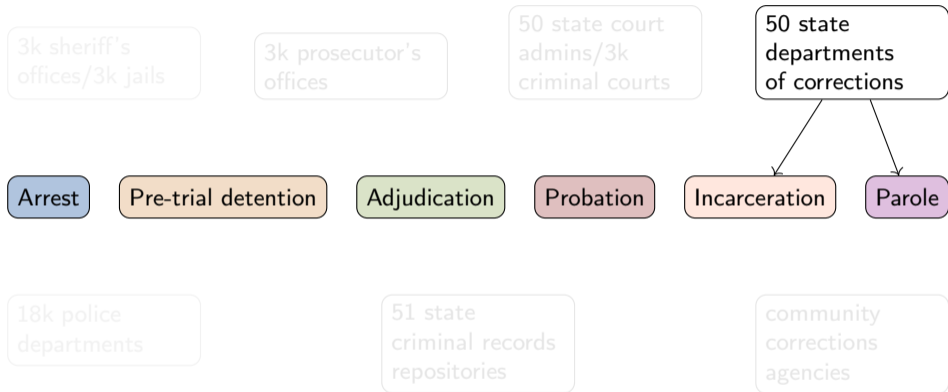
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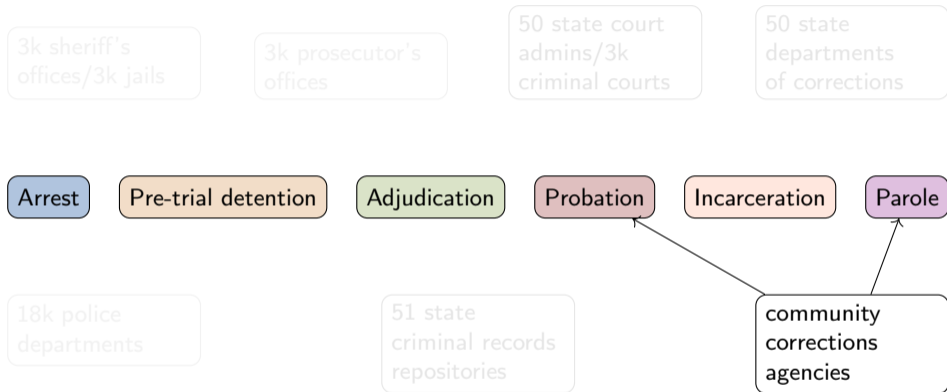
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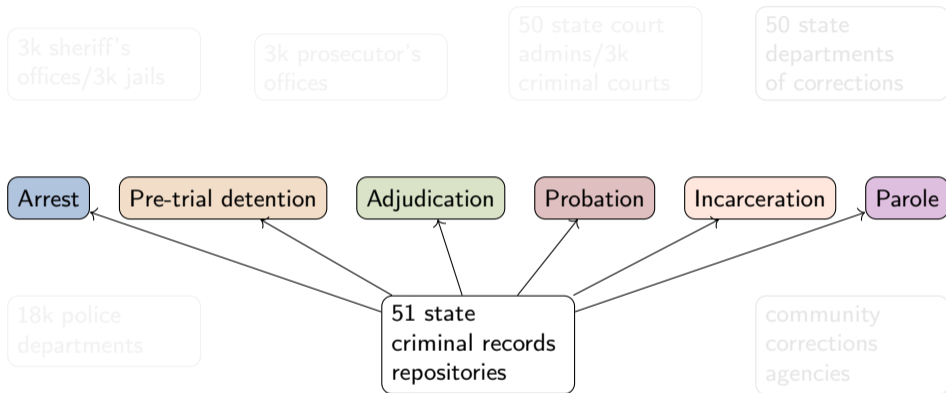
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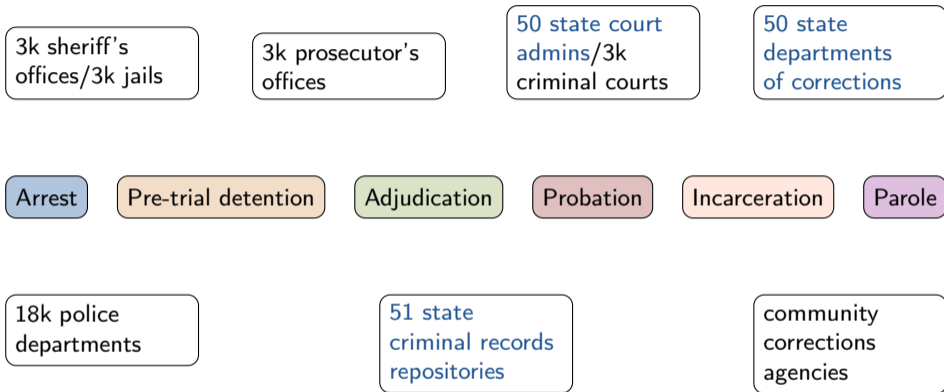
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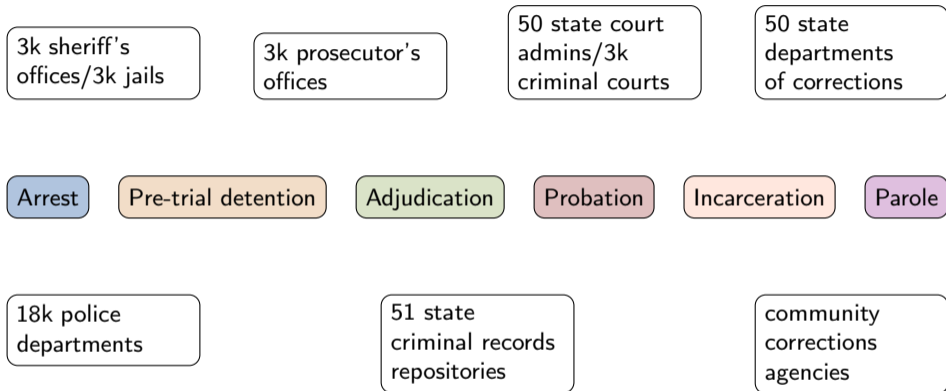
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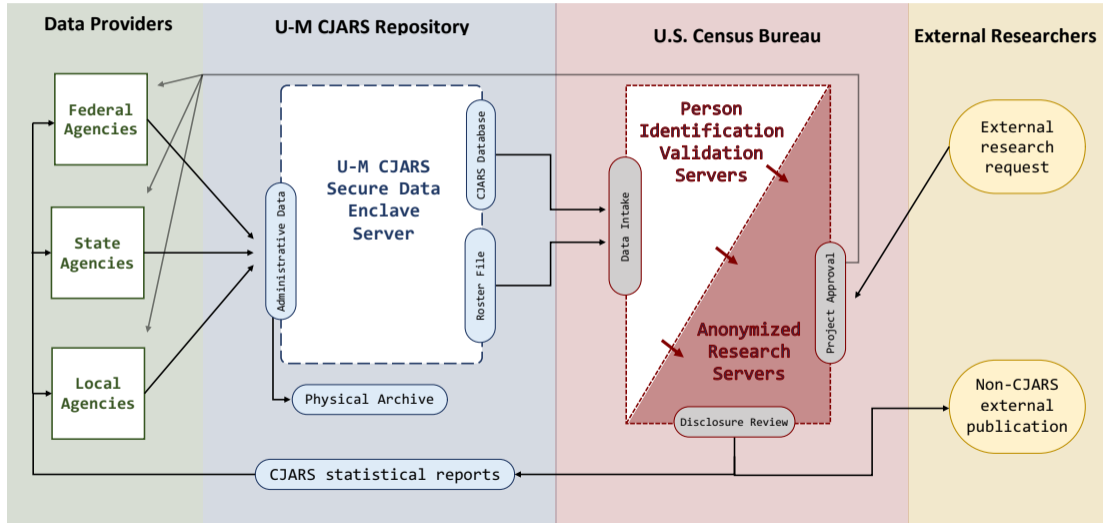


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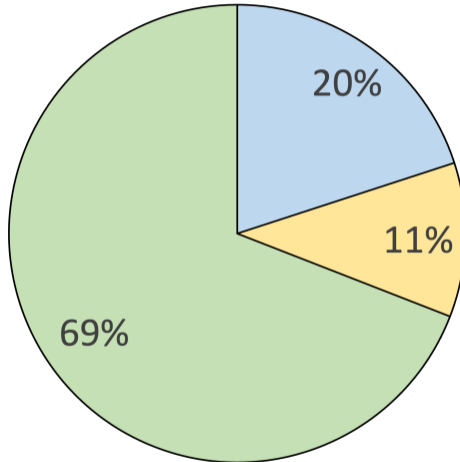


Out of scope: civil court proceedings, traffic offenses below misdemeanor level, crime reports not associated with arrest, juvenile records not transferred to criminal court, records without PII

CJARS at a glance



Diversified data collection strategies



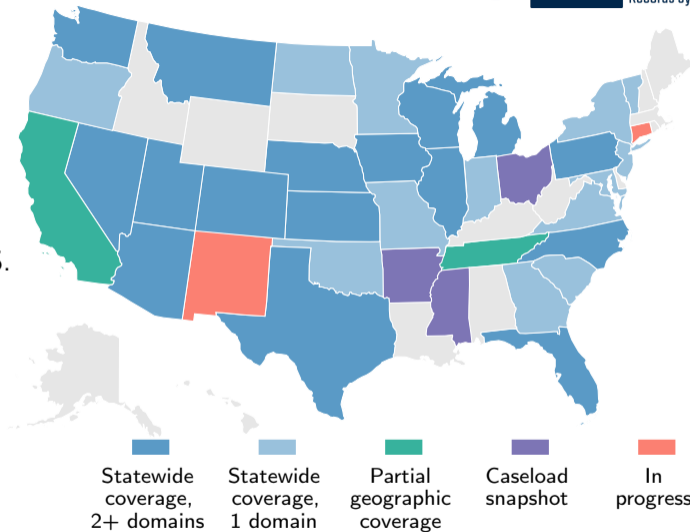
■ Scraping/Download

■ FOIA

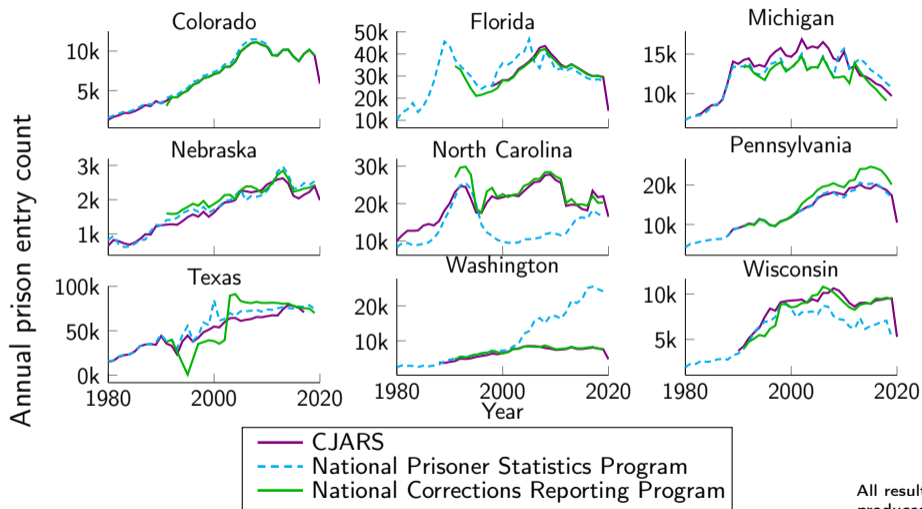
■ Data Use Agreement

CJARS data coverage

- Data from >1,000 counties; 36 states
- States with coverage of state court, state DOC, and/or state repository represent >68% of U.S. population
- 3b+ records
- 197 CJ events
- 41m unique individuals



Validation of CJARS microdata

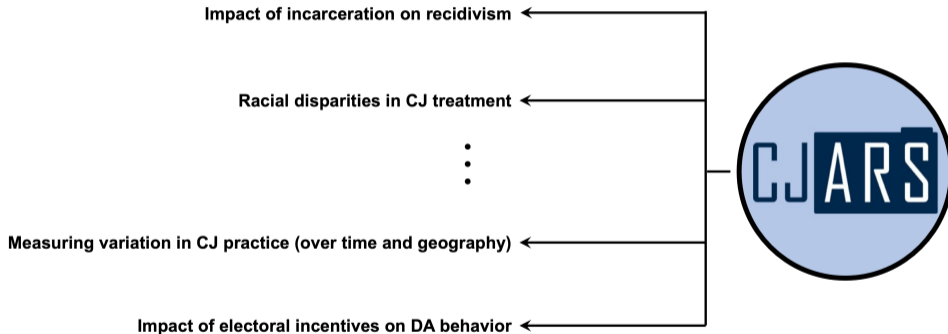


All results were
produced without
the use of Title 13
data.

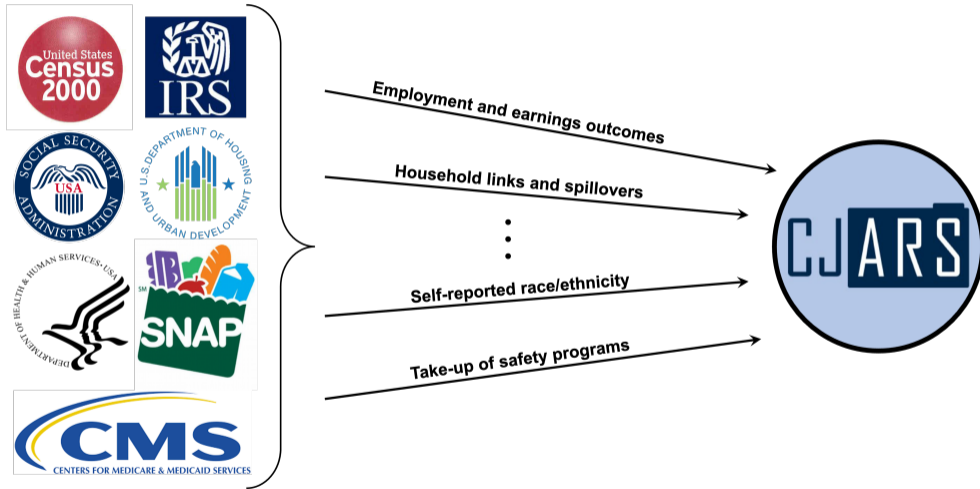
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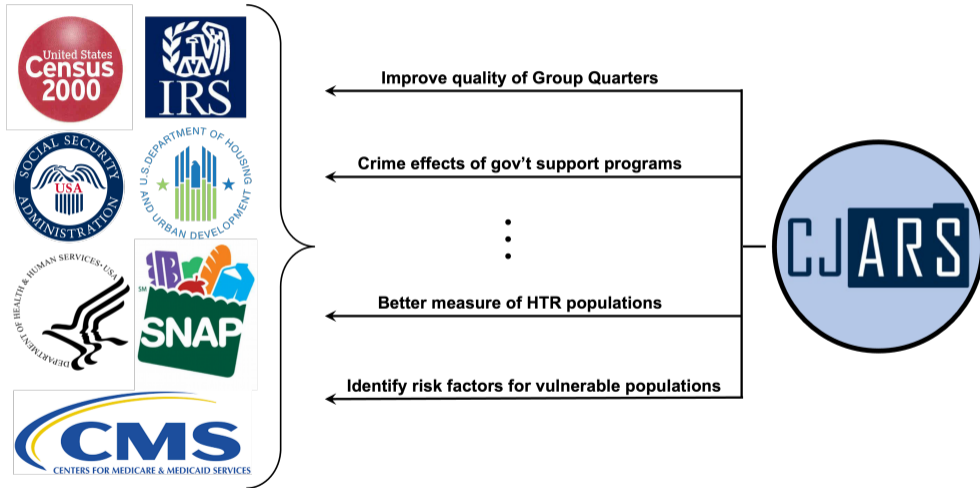
Value of an integrated data ecosystem



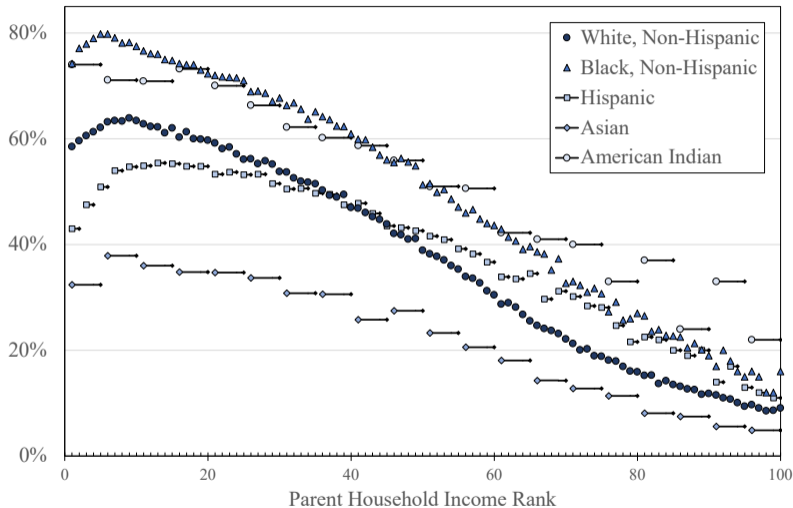
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Research example: household spillovers



All results were approved for release by the U.S. Census Bureau, authorization number CBDRB-FY22-ERD002-003.

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Access option	Data type	Benefits	Drawbacks
FSRDC	linkable microdata	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-extensive data linkage options-robust computing environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-high barriers to access-time consuming research process
Virtual Data Enclave	CJ microdata	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-straightforward request process-virtual environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-fewer linkage opportunities-access costs
Data Dashboard	aggregate statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-available online-curated statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-only aggregate statistics-defined set of available statistics

Note: All access options are strictly to anonymized records. No microdata available in the public domain.

Data tool	Use	Availability	Value
TOC	classify offense descriptions	online tool	-lowers research barriers -improves replicability
Entity resolution	identify unique individuals	run internally	-support reliable data integration -facilitate data linkage for VDE

Current CJARS user-base



Thank you

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Learn more:
<https://cjars.org>