

**Crime and Safety Surveys Data Training Seminar Announcement**  
**Using the 2007–08 School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS) and 2007 School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)**  
**Databases for Research and Policy Discussion**  
**March 22, 2010 through March 23, 2010**  
**Washington, DC**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, will sponsor a two-day advanced studies seminar on the use of two databases from NCES' Crime and Safety Surveys program; these include the 2007–08 School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS) and 2007 School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) databases. The SSOCS is designed to support research on a wide range of topics pertaining to school crime and safety from the perspective of school administrators; while the SCS/NCVS is designed to support such research from the perspective of students ages 12–18. This seminar is open to advanced graduate students and faculty members from colleges and universities nationwide and to researchers, education practitioners, and policy analysts from federal, state, and local education and human services agencies and professional associations.

## OVERVIEW



SSOCS is managed by NCES on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education. SSOCS collects extensive crime and safety data from principals and school administrators of U.S. public schools. SSOCS focuses on incidents of specific crimes and offenses and a variety of specific discipline issues in public schools. It also covers characteristics of school policies, school violence prevention programs, and policies and school characteristics that have been

associated with school crime. Data from this collection can be used to examine the relationship between school characteristics and violent and serious violent crimes in primary schools, middle schools, high schools, and combined schools. SSOCS has been conducted in school years 1999–2000, 2003–04, 2005–06, and 2007–08. A fifth collection is planned for school year 2009–10. This data training will focus on the 2007–08 collection.



The SCS to the NCVS was jointly designed by NCES and the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics. Created as a supplement to the NCVS, the SCS has been conducted in 1989, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009 to collect information about student and school characteristics on a national level. The SCS asks students a number of questions about their experiences with and perceptions of crime and violence. The SCS contains additional questions not included in the larger victimization survey (NCVS), such as those concerning preventive measures used by the school, students' participation in after-school activities, students' perceptions of school rules, the presence of weapons, gangs, hate-related words and graffiti in school, student reports of bullying, the availability of drugs and alcohol, and students' attitudes relating to fear of victimization and avoidance behavior at school. This data training will focus on the 2007 collection.

For further information about SSOCS and/or SCS, including the questionnaires and a list of available publications that can be downloaded or ordered, visit the Crime and Safety Surveys website (<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/crime/index.asp>).

## PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME

The overall goal of the seminar is to provide researchers with opportunities to become familiar with two of the most unique and comprehensive data resources on school crime and safety in the nation and to use the SSOCS or SCS data in substantive research. The seminar will include both lecture and hands-on instruction.

Specifically, the seminar will include the following topics and activities:

- an overview of SSOCS and SCS designs, instruments, and databases;
- discussion of the methodological and technical issues relevant to SSOCS and SCS data use;
- instruction and practice with SSOCS and SCS data;
- hands-on experience in conducting analyses of SSOCS and SCS data; and
- exclusive networking opportunities with other SSOCS/SCS users and data experts.

It should be noted that this seminar does not provide formal instruction on advanced statistical methods and analyses. Participants will use the seminar to refine their research plans. At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will be expected to present a brief preliminary analysis plan that uses SSOCS or SCS data, including a clear statement of their research questions, a rationale for the analysis, an analytic approach, and a summary of lessons learned from the data training. After the training, NCES will follow up with training attendees on a regular basis in order to track progress on proposed outcomes. It is NCES' expectation that copies of any papers and publications using SSOCS or SCS data would be shared with NCES upon completion.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Participants attending this seminar should have a solid understanding of statistical methods, be experienced in using personal computers, and be proficient in the use of SPSS, SAS, or Stata statistical software packages. Participants will be expected to know how to perform analysis procedures, including recoding data and running statistical analyses (e.g., frequency distributions, crosstabulations, means, regression analyses). The versions provided during this training will be SAS 9.2, STATA 10, and SPSS 17.0.2. At the start of training, all participants will be required to sign an affidavit of nondisclosure because SSOCS 2007–08 restricted use data will be provided on-site for all participants.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria (applicants may propose topics related to one or both data sets):

- significance of the proposed research and potential benefit from participation in the seminar;
- consistency of the proposed research agenda with the data available in the SSOCS and/or SCS;
- experience in social, behavioral, criminological, or educational research; and
- knowledge and skills in statistical analyses and the use of statistical computer packages. (Please see attached application form for specific questions pertaining to your level of experience.)

Researchers with grants to use SSOCS or SCS data and graduate students planning to use the data for their dissertation research will be given special consideration.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SEMINAR

There is no fee to attend this seminar. Training materials as well as computers for the hands-on practice will be provided. Lunch and afternoon snack during the seminar will also be provided. **However, transportation, hotel accommodations, and incidental expenses during the training seminar will be the responsibility of the attendee.**

## LOCATION

The seminar will be held in Washington, DC, Monday, March 22, 2010, through Tuesday, March 23, 2010. Accepted applicants will be sent information about the meeting and will be responsible for coordinating their own travel and lodging arrangements.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

If applicants are interested in attending the seminar, please complete and return:

1. The application form.
2. A copy of your resume or curriculum vitae. Applicants must have extensive data processing experience with SAS, SPSS, or Stata to be considered. This is a strict requirement.
3. A 2- to 3-page statement, clearly describing your research interests, how you plan to use SSOCS and/or SCS data in your research, and how you would benefit from the seminar. The statement should identify the substantive issues and research questions that you intend to study using SSOCS and/or SCS data. It should clearly indicate why these issues and questions are important and why you believe SSOCS and/or SCS is an appropriate data source. For example, you should identify the SSOCS and/or SCS questionnaires and/or survey content areas on which your research will focus. Be as specific as possible. Please include research questions, relevant variables, analysis/methodology, and proposed products and associated timelines for your results. Longer statements will not be reviewed.
4. A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor if you are a graduate student.

Information regarding questionnaires and content areas is available at the study website; for SSOCS: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ssocs/> for SCS: <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/crime/surveys.asp>

As this is the first data training to be offered on these data, we expect that the number of applicants for this seminar will far exceed the number of spaces available. Only complete applications will be considered.

All applications should be received no later than **January 30, 2010**. Applications will be reviewed, and selected candidates will be informed by **February 15, 2010**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and further information about the data training.

Applications should be returned to:

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Contact Monica Hill through e-mail at [Monica.Hill@ed.gov](mailto:Monica.Hill@ed.gov), if you have any questions regarding this seminar.

