



Considerations for Analysis of SSOCS Data

Module Objectives

- Describe the analytic considerations for SSOCS data
- Explain anomalies in the SSOCS data file
- Discuss reporting concerns
- Explain limitations of the data
- Describe additional resources

Data Anomalies - Logical Errors

- Some data values are modified using editing or imputation procedures
- Changes are sometimes made because answers to questions did not make sense based on answers to related questions

44. What is your school's average daily attendance?

Percent of students present	
568	%
0	None

Data Anomalies - Back Coding and Created Variables

Please provide the following information:

Name of person completing form

010

Telephone number

Area code Number

012

Title/position

Check one response.

014

1 Principal

2 Vice-principal or disciplinarian

3 Other - Please specify

015

Number of years at this school

016

Best days and times to reach you (in case we have further questions)

018

E-mail address

020

Is _____ the correct grade range for this school?

021

Yes No GO TO Question 1 on page 5

42. How would you describe the crime level in the area where your school is located?

Check one response.

022

1 High level of crime

2 Moderate level of crime

3 Low level of crime

4 Students come from areas with very different levels of crime

43. Which of the following best describes your school?

Check one response.

024

1 Regular public school

2 Charter school

3 Has a magnet program for part of the school

4 Exclusively a magnet school

5 Other - Please specify

025

44. What is your school's average daily attendance?

Percent	
568	%
0	None

45. During the 2015-16 school year, how many students transferred to or from your school at start of the school year? Please report on the total mobility, not just transfers due to disciplinary actions. (NOTE: This number should be greater than or equal to the number of students v

Data Reporting Considerations

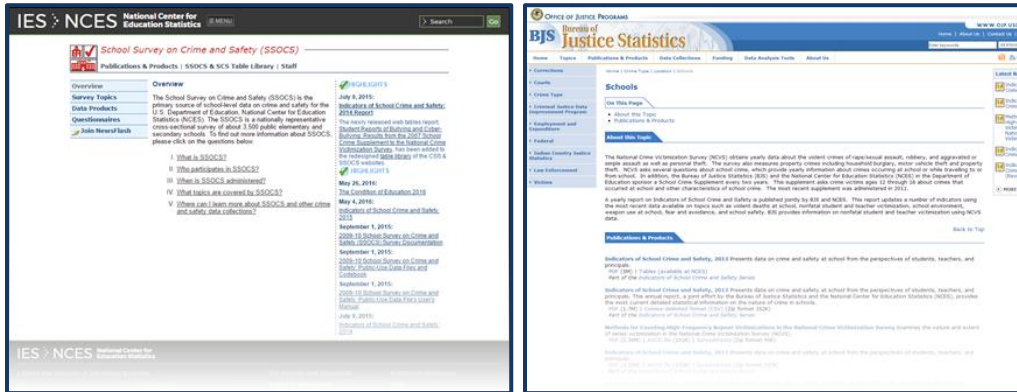
- SSOCS data can only be used for aggregate reporting
 - Data are not representative of any one particular school
- Conclusions about causality between school characteristics and crime cannot be made
- Many questions in the SSOCS data set are interrelated
- Become familiar with the survey questions and with school crime and safety topics before analyzing SSOCS data
- Review standard error estimates for any means derived from SSOCS data before reporting results
 - NCES standards require that tables containing estimates with high standard errors should be footnoted, and in some cases cell values blanked out, to avoid misinterpretation

Data Limitations

- SSOCS data **can** be used to
 - Make inferences about regular public schools, public charter schools, and public schools that have partial or total magnet programs in the United States with regard to their safety and crime
- SSOCS data **cannot** be used to
 - Describe safety and crime at schools outside of the 50 states and the District of Columbia
 - Describe excluded schools such as Bureau of Indian Education schools, special education schools, vocational schools, alternative schools, ungraded schools, virtual schools, and preschool and Kindergarten only schools
 - Produce state-level estimates
 - Track changes in individual schools over time

Current Research

- Data collected through SSOCS are used in many ways by different stakeholders
- Publications that use SSOCS data are available in a variety of places



SSOCS 2018

- Cognitive testing for 2018 questionnaire.
- Field test of web version

SSOCS:16 and Additional Sources of Crime Data

Office of Civil Rights (OCR) "[Civil Rights Data Collection](#)" provides additional information on school crime as it

- Collects data on key education and civil rights issues in the nation's public schools
- Contains information disaggregated by race/ethnicity, sex, limited English proficiency, and disability available for all schools and districts by name



Module Summary and Resources

Summary

- Described the analytic considerations for SSOCS data
- Explained anomalies in the SSOCS data file
- Discussed reporting concerns
- Explained limitations of the data
- Described additional resources

Resources

- [SSOCS website](#)
- [Bureau of Justice Statistics website](#)
- [Office of Civil Rights \(OCR\) "Civil Rights Data Collection" \(CRDC\)](#)