



Bureau of Justice  
Statistics

OMB No. 1121- 0152: Approval Expires 08/31/2018



## Survey of Prison Inmates Consent to Participate in Research

### **Introduction**

The Survey of Prison Inmates is a research study ~~being~~ done by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and RTI International. The purpose ~~of this research~~ is to ~~collect information on the conditions and experiences of~~ learn about prison inmates in the United States. Interviews will be ~~conducted~~ done at 350 prisons ~~for this study and you~~. You are one of about 30,000 inmates ~~in the nation being asked~~ chosen to take part. ~~Your participation in this project is voluntary. But you were chosen at random, or by chance, to~~ This means that you represent ~~thousands of all the~~ other inmates ~~across the nation who that~~ were not selected. We cannot replace you with anyone else, so you ~~chosen~~ to take part. Your participation is ~~important if~~ voluntary, but we ~~are~~ would like to ~~accurately describe all inmates across the nation. After you have heard the information~~ know about your experiences. Let me tell you about the study, and you can decide if you want to ~~participate in the study~~ take part.

### **Description of the Study**

This interview will take about 55 minutes. I will ask ~~questions~~ about your ~~criminal~~:

- ~~education, work, and family background.~~
- ~~current and prior offense~~ history,
- ~~physical and mental health, and treatment received.~~
- ~~drug and alcohol use before you were incarcerated, and any treatment you may have received. I will also ask questions about your admission to prison, and~~
- ~~experiences at this facility, some background questions about your family, your education and your work history, in prison and use of prison programs.~~

I will enter your answers ~~directly~~ into the laptop ~~computer~~.

~~At some point over~~ Within the next 5 years, the Bureau of Justice Statistics may ~~also~~ combine your ~~survey~~ answers with ~~data from~~ information other government agencies ~~already have about you~~. This might ~~include information~~ about your:

- ~~employment, and~~ income, ~~participation in various~~

## Attachment E – 2016 SPI Consent\_Track Changes\_Clean

- criminal records, and
- benefits you might have gotten from government programs, ~~and criminal records.~~ This.

Adding this information will allow for additional research without taking up more ~~cut down on the number~~ of ~~your time with~~ questions. ~~It I ask today.~~ We will only be used ~~use this information~~ to produce statistics that will combine your. Your information will be combined with ~~that of the information from~~ all other inmates in the study. ~~It will also help identify ways to improve the services, education, and training available to inmates in the future, including inmates who return to the community.~~

### **Confidentiality**

There is a law that protects the privacy of your answers, Title 42, United States Code, Section 3789g. This study is also covered by a Privacy Certificate ~~which.~~ This means that your answers and information we will treat everything you say during the interview and all information about you as collect is kept private and confidential. I will not ask you questions if I think someone can overhear your answers. ~~It also means that we~~ We will not share your answers with anyone at this prison ~~or with anyone from the community such as,~~ a supervision officer ~~or,~~ employer, ~~or anyone else from the community.~~ Nothing you tell me during the interview can be used in any legal action. ~~To protect your confidentiality, all~~ All information will be handled in a kept secure manner and your answers will always be combined with ~~those of all other inmates~~ participants in the study to produce the study results. ~~The procedures to protect your privacy are required by law, Title 42, United States Code, Section 3789g. There is, however, an~~ for statistics. The only exceptions to our promise of confidentiality include. ~~If you tell me that you~~ intend plan to seriously harm yourself, ~~or a specific person,~~ or plan to commit a future crime, or know about any sexual contact between inmates or correctional staff. In these cases, I may need to inform ~~correctional staff~~ officials at this prison.

[To thank you for participating in the study, we will provide you with a snack to eat before you leave this room.]

### **Possible Risks or Discomforts**

Some of the ~~survey~~ questions are personal and/or ask about past behaviors that may behave been illegal. These questions may make you feel uncomfortable or upset. You can skip any questions question you do not want to answer. ~~or I will not ask you questions if I think someone can overhear your answers.~~ ~~If you become upset for any reason,~~ you can stop the interview. at any time.

### **Benefits**

You will not receive any direct benefits for participating in this study. ~~However,~~ But the results of ~~this~~ the study may help to improve ~~the condition and well-being of things for prison~~ inmates ~~in facilities~~ across the nation, as well as those who ~~reenter the community.~~ will be released. If you do not ~~participate~~ take part, you will not lose any benefits or services that you now receive or might receive in the future. Your ~~choice to participate~~ participation will ~~have no effect or~~ not affect your legal status or any decisions regarding your release.

### **Further Questions**

If you have any questions about the project, you may write to the Survey of Prison Inmates at RTI International, P.O. Box 12194, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194. If you have questions about your rights as a project participant, you can write to RTI's Office of Research Protection at the same address.

## Refusal Conversion Script

### **INTERVIEWER:**

#### AFTER READING THE CONSENT FORM:

Do you have any questions about the study at this time? RESPOND IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRAINING.

If you agree to take part, I'll begin the interview.

IF AGREES, CODE CONSENT STATUS IN CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, PROVIDE RESPONDENT WITH STANDARD CONSENT FORM, AND BEGIN INTERVIEW.

#### IF INITIAL REFUSAL:

ASK IF THE INMATE HAS ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS. ANSWER THE INMATE'S QUESTIONS AND/OR ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE/ADDRESS THE CONCERNS USING STANDARD SPI CONVERSION TECHNIQUES FROM TRAINING/EXPERIENCE. IF STANDARD SPI TECHNIQUES ARE SUCCESSFUL, CODE CONSENT STATUS IN CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND BEGIN INTERVIEW. PROVIDE RESPONDENT WITH STANDARD CONSENT FORM.

IF STANDARD TECHNIQUES ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL, AS FINAL EFFORT TO PERSUADE/ELICIT PARTICIPATION, OFFER **OPT-OUT OPTION**.

I understand that you don't want to take part in the study as I've described it. Because you represent thousands of many other inmates, it's important to learn what we can about your experiences. And if you would be willing to participate in just part of the study, you can still help us identify ways to improve things for inmates in the future and those who return to the community.

If you agree, you can do the interview and allow us to combine your answers with just your current criminal record to save time. And I can promise that we will not review your future criminal records or get information about you from any other government agencies for additional research purposes.

If you agree to that, I can begin the interview.

IF AGREES, CODE CONSENT STATUS IN CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, PROVIDE RESPONDENT WITH OPT-OUT CONSENT FORM, AND BEGIN INTERVIEW.

IF REFUSES, CODE REFUSAL STATUS IN CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND THANK INMATE (DO NOT BEGIN INTERVIEW).



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### ***Description of the Study***

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- education, work, and family background,
- current and prior offense history,
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- drug and alcohol use before admission to prison, and
- experiences in prison and use of prison programs.

I will enter your answers into the laptop.

Within the next 5 years, the Bureau of Justice Statistics may combine your answers with information other government agencies already have about you. This might include information about you:

- employment and income,
- criminal records, and
- benefits you might have gotten from government programs.

Adding this information will cut down on the number of questions I ask today. We will only use this information to produce statistics. Your information will be combined with the information from all other inmates in the study.

### ***Confidentiality***

There is a law that protects the privacy of your answers, Title 42, United States Code, Section 3789g. This study is also covered by a Privacy Certificate. This means that your answers and information we collect is kept private and confidential. I will not ask you questions if I think someone can overhear your answers. We will not share your answers with anyone at this prison, a supervision officer, employer, or anyone else from the community. Nothing you tell me during the interview can be used in any legal action. All information will be kept secure and your answers will be combined with other participants in the study for statistics. The only exceptions to our promise of confidentiality include if you tell me that you plan to seriously harm yourself, a specific person, commit a future crime, or know about any sexual contact between inmates or correctional staff. In these cases, I may need to inform officials at this prison.

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***Benefits***

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