Instructions for Extracting
SAS or SPSS Data Files
from the Provided Files

The following is an explanation of how to extract a fiscal year data file from the United States Sentencing Commission's website.

The data is stored in ASCII dat files for which we provide both SAS and SPSS extract programs so that users of either software package will be able to access the data.

In addition to the data files, we have also provided a codebook that contains information on all of the variables located on each of the fiscal year data files. This file is located along side these extraction instruction on the Commission's website.

Both the data and programs to extract the SAS or SPSS data files are located in Self-Extracting WinZip files, which has an **.exe** file extension, available through the links for each Fiscal Year under their respective headings on this website. To extract either the SAS or SPSS data please read the following instructions.

To extract the SAS data file do the following:

1. Download the Winzip Self-Extracting file for the fiscal year you are interested in from the website to the desired location on your computer.

2. Double click on the Self-Extracting WinZip file.

    a. A Popup window should appear asking you to specify where the data should be extracted to. Browse to the desired location and click the Unzip button.

    b. Un-compressing the files may take several minutes, so be patient.

3. Once the file has been un-compressed you should have two new files in the folder you specified, a **.sas** program file and a much larger **.dat** file containing the raw fiscal year data.

4. Open the **.sas** program file in your SAS software package and follow the instructions at the beginning of the program.

    a. Prior to running the program you will need to update the FILNAME statement with the location of the corresponding **.dat** file on your computer and the LIBNAME statement with the location where you want the created SAS data file to be saved.

5. Once you have run the SAS program file you should have a SAS dataset in the location you specified.

6. Follow the above procedure to create each of the fiscal year data files.

To extract the SPSS data file do the following:

1. Download the Winzip Self-Extracting file for the fiscal year you are interested in from the website to the desired location on your computer.

2. Double click on the Self-Extracting WinZip file.

   a. A Popup window should appear asking you to specify where the data should be extracted to. Browse to the desired location and click the Unzip button.

   b. Un-compressing the files may take several minutes, so be patient.

3. Once the file has been un-compressed you should have two new files in the folder you specified, a **.sps** program file and a much larger **.dat** file containing the raw fiscal year data.

4. Open the **.sps** program file in your SPSS software package and follow the instructions at the beginning of the program

   a. Prior to running the program you will need to update the FILE HANDLE DATA / NAME statement with the location of the corresponding **.dat** file on your computer and the SAVE OUTFILE statement at the end of the program with the location where you want the created SPSS data file to be saved.

5. Once you have run the SPSS program file you should have a SPSS dataset in the location you specified.

6. Follow the above procedure to create each of the fiscal year data files.

The intention was to provide the Commission's data in a way that would be easily transferable to the user's computer system. If you have any problems downloading, extracting or creating the datasets please contact the Commission at USSC_AskORD@ussc.gov.