
New Orleans Slave Sample, 1804–1862
[Instructional Materials]

Codebook (PDF)

James W. Oberly

ICPSR 3464

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[Instructional Materials]

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

James W. Oberly

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(ICPSR 3464)

SUMMARY: These instructional materials were prepared for use with NEW ORLEANS SLAVE SALE SAMPLE, 1804-1862 (ICPSR 7423), compiled by Robert W. Fogel and Stanley L. Engerman. The data file (an SPSS portable file) and accompanying documentation are provided to assist educators in instructing students about the economics of slavery and the lives of the people recorded in the slave market. An instructor's handout is also included. This handout contains the following sections, among others: (1) general goals for student analysis of quantitative datasets, (2) specific goals in studying this dataset, (3) suggested appropriate courses for use of the dataset, (4) tips for using the dataset, and (5) related secondary source readings. The dataset includes data on slave sales that occurred on the New Orleans slave market between 1804-1862. For each sale, information was recorded on the date of the sale, the number of slaves on the invoice, the geographical origin of the buyer and seller, the sale price, and characteristics of the slaves sold (age, sex, family relationship, and occupation). The information presented for each transaction was obtained from the notarized bills of sale in the New Orleans Notarial Archival Office. These bills often contained information on several persons who were sold in a group or as a "lot." Whenever feasible, sale and personal characteristics of individuals appearing in such groups were entered on separate records. This was usually done when separate sale prices were recorded for each member of the group. When separate prices were not recorded for children sold in a group, information describing those children was attached to the record of a principal slave with whom they were associated on the original bill of sale.

UNIVERSE: Slave sales on the New Orleans slave market between 1804-1862.

SAMPLING: Depending on the period of the sale transaction, either 2.5 percent or 5 percent of the bills of sale for each year were drawn to form the final sample.

NOTE: (1) This collection is part of SIMI (Site for Instructional Materials and Information), an ICPSR initiative to promote the use of social science data in undergraduate education through the sharing of faculty-submitted ICPSR data-based instructional materials developed for classroom use. (2) These materials were

designed for use with the dataset NEW ORLEANS SLAVE SALE SAMPLE, 1804-1862 (ICPSR 7423). (3) The data are provided as an SPSS portable file, which was created from the ASCII data and SPSS data definition statement files available from ICPSR 7423. (4) The codebook and handout files are provided by ICPSR as Portable Document (PDF) files. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using the PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided on the ICPSR Web site.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF and MS Word 9.0)

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: REFORM.DOC

DATA FORMAT: SPSS portable

Cases: 5,009

Variables: 47

NEW ORLEANS SLAVE SALE SAMPLE, 1804-1862

(ICPSR 7423)

Robert W. Fogel and Stanley L. Engerman

for use with

NEW ORLEANS SLAVE SALE SAMPLE, 1804-1862: [Instructional Materials]

(ICPSR 3464)

James W. Oberly

Code book for 5,000 slave sales in New Orleans, 1800-1862

V47 sequence number
V1 constant
V2 notary public
V3 month
V4 year
V5 invoice code
V6 sellers initials
V7 origin of seller

Value Label

1 New Orleans
2 Other Louisiana
3 Out of State
4 Out of U. S.
9 Missing Data

V8 seller abbrev
V9 buyers initials
V10 origin of buyer

Value Label

1 New Orleans
2 Other Louisiana
3 Out of State
4 Out of U.S.
9 Missing Data

V11 buyer abbrev
V12 number of slaves on invoice
V13 number of price quotes
V14 PRICE in current dollars

V15

sex

Value	Label
-------	-------

1	Male
2	female
9	Gender not recorded

V16 age with one decimal

V17 skin color

Value	Label
-------	-------

1	Negro
2	Griff
3	Yellow
4	Mulatto
5	Copper
6	Black
7	Light
8	Brown
9	Creole
10	Quadroon
11	Dark
12	American Negro
13	African Negro

V18 number of children

V19 sex of child 1

V20 age of child 1

V21 sex of child 2

V22 age of child 2

V23 sex of child 3

V24 age of child 3

V25 sex of child 4

V26 age of child 4

V27 sex of child 5

V28 age of child 5

V29 sex of child 6

V30 age of child 6

V31 sex of child 7

V32 age of child 7

V33 sex of child 8

V34 age of child 8

V35 family relation code

Value	Label
-------	-------

1	no family relation
2	husband and wife
3	husband, wife and 1-3 children
4	siblings

V36 terms of sale

Value	Label
1	cash
2	credit
9	terms unknown

V37 amount of down payment

V38 months

V39 interest rate

V40 guarantee

Value	Label
1	slave guaranteed
2	slave not guaranteed

V41 reason for no guarantee

Value	Label
1	asthma
2	runaway history
3	hearing
4	hides out
5	bad eyesight
6	rheumatism
7	maladies
8	frostbitten foot
9	alcoholic
10	sickly
11	swollen limbs
12	ruptured

V42 occupation code

Value	Label
0	no occupation given
1	seamstress
2	cook
3	sailmaker
4	blacksmith
5	carpenter
6	gardener
7	house servant
8	wood chopper
9	field hand
10	cooper
11	hair dresser
12	bricklayer
14	interpreter
15	butcher
16	ploughman
17	laborer
26	coachman

V43 out of state code

Value	Label
-------	-------

1	no information
5	seller not from LA
7	African import

V44 importation code

V45 previous transaction code

V46 index of individ price

Value	Label
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1	price for single slave
2	price for multiple slaves