

# Secondary analysis of data collected over a 20 year period by HM Inspectorate of Prisons



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## BACKGROUND

For more than **two decades**, HM Inspectorate of Prisons for England and Wales (HMI Prisons) has conducted detailed, confidential surveys of prisoners and other detainees as an integral part of its inspections. This has generated a unique **database** of historic survey data from almost 100,000 respondents, with more than 10 million analysable responses.

## OBJECTIVES

This project seeks to develop a 20 year database of detainee surveys to:

- Identify** detainees' self-reported characteristics (e.g. age, ethnicity, gender) and experiences of imprisonment;
- Understand** how these self-reported experiences differ according to characteristics and circumstances, prison held in and policy changes;
- Prepare** aspects of the database for use by other academic researchers, teachers and policy makers.

## METHODS

Data cleansing and sorting

Systematically processing survey versions, appropriately aggregating data, and organising datasets into subsets of survey versions and thematic areas.

Addressing the research questions

Iterative process of using relevant literature, data analysis and stakeholder feedback to identify and promote answers to research questions.

Legacy work

Generating a database for use by other academic researchers, teachers and policy makers and depositing it with the UK Data Service.

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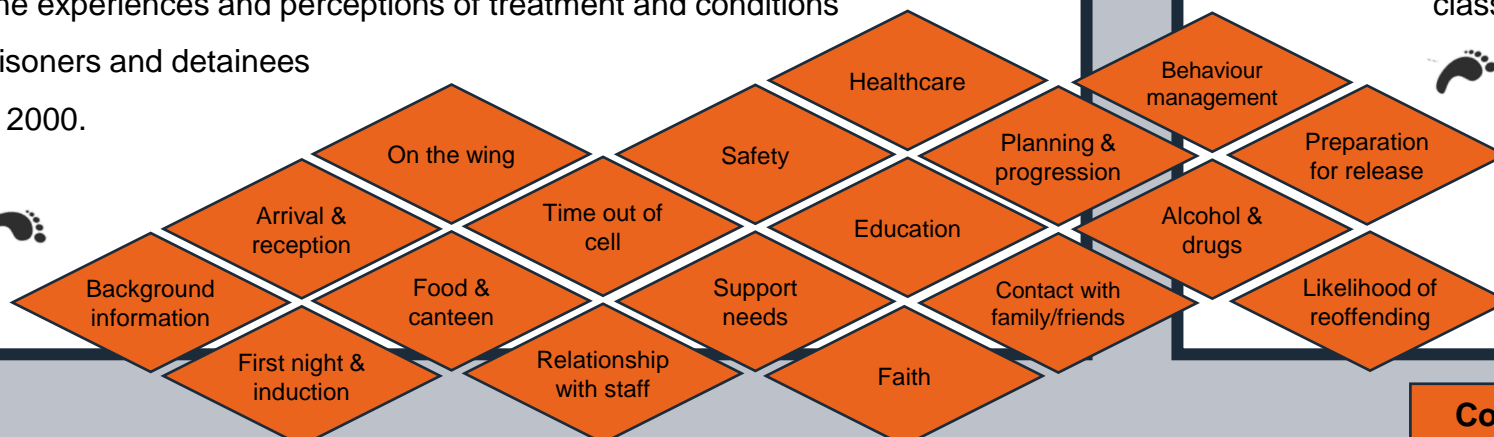
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## SURVEY

Surveys cover a wide range of **topics** – from views on the quality and quantity of food to concerns about safety – and provide an invaluable insight into the experiences and perceptions of treatment and conditions for prisoners and detainees since 2000.



## DATABASE

Data analysed within the project is deposited to the **UK Data Service** upon completion of the project (**JUNE 2023**). Detainee survey data is classified as 'safeguarded data'; this requires users to be registered with the UK Data Service, for depositors to grant permission and for data to be accessed for non-commercial purposes. The data is accompanied with documents that provide clear instructions on how to navigate the historical HMIP survey data.

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