

# Understanding the Structure of the Justice Gap Survey Data

## What do the **ROWS** represent?

For **respondent-level** data, each row represents a unique case. However, the structure for the household and individual-level data files is quite different.

For the **household-level** data, each row represents a legal problem (identified in the “PROBNUM” variable), meaning each respondent has 88 rows – one for each of 88 *potential* legal problems. For example:

Row 1	Respondent A Problem 1
Row 2	Respondent A Problem 2
... <i>through</i> ...	
Row 87	Respondent A Problem 87
Row 88	Respondent A Problem 88
Row 89	<u>Respondent B Problem 1</u>
Row 90	Respondent B Problem 2
... <i>and so on</i> ...	

For the **individual-level** data, each row again represents a legal problem, but in this case *only* problems personally experienced by the respondent are included.

## What do the **COLUMNS** represent?

For **respondent-level** data, each column contains a variable describing characteristics of the respondent and her or his household.

For the **household-level** and **individual-level** files, columns contain information about the row’s specific legal problem (identified in “PROBNUM”) and about the respondent’s experience with that specific legal problem. For example, this may include:

- the categorization of the legal problem (“block”),
- who in the household experienced the legal problem (“who\_exp”),
- how severe the issue was (“severity”),
- the person from whom legal help was sought, and so forth.

The responses can be said to “cascade” across the columns in that having a response in one column may depend on a response in one or more other columns.