

Codebook for State Politics Dataset

The following are variable descriptions for the class data set. Sources are listed for each variable, although complete citations are not given because they frequently involve multiple years and/or multiple publications. Except where otherwise indicated, all data are from 2000.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

state	State abbreviation.
fullname	State's full name.
region	MW=Midwest, W=West, NE=Northeast, S=South
population	Population in 1000s. <i>The Statistical Abstract of the United States.</i>
area	Land area in square miles (excludes water). <i>Statistical Abstract of the United States.</i>
density	Residents per square mile. Calculated from Population (x1000) and Area.
blackpop	Black population in 1000s. Bureau of the Census. <i>Current Population Reports/Statistical Abstract of the United States.</i>
divorcerate	Divorces per 1000 population. <i>Vital Statistics of the United States.</i>
christians	Percent of population that are Christian adherents. <i>Statistical Abstract of the United States.</i>
abortionrate	Abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44. The Allan Guttmacher Institute.

CRIME

murder	Murders per 100,000 population. <i>Uniform Crime Reports.</i> FBI.
rape	Rapes per 100,000 population. <i>Uniform Crime Reports,</i> FBI.
robbery	Robberies per 100,000 population. <i>Uniform Crime Reports,</i> FBI.

prispop Number of prisoners serving sentences of 12 months or longer per 1,000 state residents in 2004. *Source: US Census.*

deathpenalty Death Penalty State. (1 if yes, 0 if no)

noexecutions Number of executions performed in that state between 1976 and 2009. *www.deathpenaltyinfo.org*

policespend Police Expenditures (In millions of dollars). *US Census Bureau*

EDUCATION

edspending Per capita expenditures on K-12 education. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics.*

math8prof Percent of 8th grade students scoring above proficient on standardized math tests. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics.*

reading8prof Percent of 8th grade students scoring above proficient on standardized reading tests. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics.*

edequity The Education Equity index, a 0-100 scale with 100 indicating complete equity (all districts spend exactly the same per pupil). *Quality Counts: A Report Card on the Condition of Public Education in the 50 States.* 1997. Washington, D.C.: Education Week/Pew Charitable Trusts.

hstdiploma Percent of population that has at least a high school diploma, as of 2004. National Center for Education Statistics. *State Comparisons of Education Statistics.*

POLITICS

initiative Equals 1 if state has the initiative, zero otherwise.

culture Elazar's political culture classification. 1=Moralistic, 2=Individualistic, 3=Traditionalistic. *Source: Smith, Greenblatt, & Buntin (2005), p. 98.*

culturename Names, instead of numbers, for Elazar's classification.

noleg Total number of state legislators

womenleg	Percent of state legislators that are women, 2009. <i>National Conference of State Legislatures</i> .
turnout00	Percent of voting-age population casting ballots in 2000 presidential race. http://uselectionatlas.org/
gore00	Al Gore's percentage of the major-party vote in the 2000 presidential race. http://uselectionatlas.org/
turnout04	Percent of voting-age population casting ballots in 2004 presidential race. http://uselectionatlas.org/
kerry04	John Kerry's percentage of the major-party vote in the 2004 presidential race. http://uselectionatlas.org/
turnout08	Percent of voting-age population casting ballots in 2008 presidential race. http://uselectionatlas.org/
obama08	Barack Obama's percentage of the major-party vote in the 2008 presidential race. http://uselectionatlas.org/
turnout9604	Average voter turnout in presidential elections from 1996 to 2004.
adoption	Estimated percent supporting adoption by same-sex couples. <i>Source: Lax & Phillips 2009.</i>
marriage	Estimated percent supporting same-sex marriage. <i>Source: Lax & Phillips 2009.</i>
unions	Estimated percent supporting same-sex unions. <i>Source: Lax & Phillips 2009.</i>
adoptlib	Equals 1 if state has adopted liberal stance on same-sex adoption. <i>Source: Lax & Phillips 2009.</i>
marlib	equals 1 if state has adopted liberal stance on same-sex marriage. <i>Source: Lax & Phillips 2009.</i>
unionlib	equals 1 if state has adopted liberal stance on same-sex unions. <i>Source: Lax & Phillips 2009.</i>
govpower	The Governor's Power index. This measures the institutional powers of governors, based on: separate elections, length of tenure, appointment powers, budgetary powers, veto powers, and party control. <i>Source: Smith, Greenblatt, & Buntin (2005), pp. 231-2.</i>

policylib	Rank, from 1-48, in the liberalism of the state's policies. (Hawaii and Alaska were not included.) This index is a composite of the state's policies on gun control, abortion, welfare, tax progressivity, and unionization. Source: Gray & Hanson, <i>Politics in the American States</i> , (2004) p. 4.
legpolar	Degree of party polarization in the lower house of the state legislature. (Nebraska's Unicam is included.) Higher scores indicate that more roll call votes fall along party lines. (Number is the aggregate proportion reduction in error, as calculated by the NOMINATE program.) Source: Wright & Winburn "The Effects of Size and Party on the Dimensionality of Roll Calls" (2003).
partredist02	Equals 1 if a state had a partisan form of redistricting in 2002, zero otherwise.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

unemp07	State unemployment rate in 2007. <i>Bureau of Labor Statistics</i> .
unemp08	State unemployment rate in 2008. <i>Bureau of Labor Statistics</i> .
unemp09	State unemployment rate in November of 2009. <i>Bureau of Labor Statistics</i> .
pcincome07	Per capita income in state in third quarter of 2007. <i>Bureau of Economic Analysis</i> .
pcincome08	Per capita income in state in third quarter of 2008. <i>Bureau of Economic Analysis</i> .
pcincome09	Per capita income in state in third quarter of 2009. <i>Bureau of Economic Analysis</i> .