

THE 1992 STATE POLICY DATA

Why do governments generate particular configurations of policy outputs? Current substantive theories suggest that public policy-making is a function of public opinion, interest group demands, and political culture. In order to test these theories, we will use some 1992 data on the American states. The data are contained in an ASCII text file called "states.txt". In the file, there is one line per observation and adjacent variable values are separated by whitespace. A second file, "states, with names.txt" contains a header record with variable names. The variable names in the header record and the variable definitions are as follows:

state	Character variable containing the two-letter postal code for each state.
polprior	A variable summarizing policy priorities within each state. The variable values range from zero to 100. Smaller values indicate that the state government emphasizes particularized benefits (e.g., welfare, health care) in its policy-making. Larger values indicate that the state government places greater emphasis on collective goods (e.g., highways, law enforcement) in its policy decisions.
party	Partisanship of the state electorate. This variable is defined as the proportion of self-identified Democrats within the state population minus the proportion of Republicans.
ideol	Ideology of the state electorate. This variable is defined as the proportion of self-identified liberals within the state population minus the proportion of conservatives.
igstr	Interest group strength within the state. Following Gray and Lowery, this is defined as the ratio of gross state product to the number of groups registered to lobby within the state.
govsize	Number of state government employees per 10,000 population within the state.
region	Categorical region variable (a "factor" in R terminology), with values: midwest northeast south west
ptygov	Party of the incumbent governor. Character variable (again, a factor) coded so that: d = Democratic governor r = Republican governor i = independent governor

The original analysis using these data is reported in: Jacoby, William G. and Sandra K. Schneider. (2001) "Variability in State Policy Priorities: An Empirical Analysis." *The Journal of Politics* 63: 544-568.