

Definition of Variables

The variables used in the empirical analysis are defined as follows, all at the state prosecutorial district level:

1. **The Census of Prosecutors, 2001:** The data from this census is available at the following URL: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/psc01.htm>. It is the first time that Bureau of Justice Statistics, the statistical arm of Department of Justice covered all the prosecutorial districts in their survey. Earlier survey included randomly selected districts only. The unit of aggregation from the variables taken from this source is Prosecutorial district. A prosecutorial district may consist of two or more state counties. However, most of the prosecutorial districts consist of only one county. The variables that we obtained from this data for the present study are listed below:
 - a) **Appointed or Not:** A binary variable which indicates whether the prosecutor was appointed or elected. It is one for districts where the prosecutors are appointed. Prosecutors in all the districts in Alaska, Connecticut, New Jersey, and District of Columbia are appointed by their respective state Attorney Generals.
 - b) **Composition of Districts:** Each prosecutorial district consists of one or more of state counties. The Census of Prosecutors, 2001 contains this composition of prosecutorial districts in terms of state counties. We have used this information to merge variables taken from different datasets that were at different levels of aggregation.
 - c) **Number of Felony Cases Closed:** Number of cases that a prosecutor decides to take.
 - d) **Number of Felony Cases Convicted:** Number of cases which result in conviction including through plea-bargain.
 - e) **Prosecutorial Budget:** The annual budget that prosecutors get mostly from the local governments as county and municipal governments.
Units: per million
 - f) **Term of Office:** It is the number of years a prosecutor will hold the office after being elected or appointed before the next election or reappointment.
 - g) **Win Rate:** The number of felony cases convicted as a percentage of number of felony cases closed.
 - h) **Years in Office:** The number of years the current prosecutor has been in office.
2. **Uniform Crime Report, 2001:** The uniform crime report is made by Federal Bureau of Investigation to measure the level of crime across different parts of the United States. It provides data about certain serious crimes reported to different law enforcement agencies across the counties such as police or sheriff departments. These serious crimes include murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies, motor vehicle thefts, and arsons. This report for the year 2001 can be obtained from the following URL: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/01cius.htm>. This data was available at the level of counties of states. We aggregated this data to the prosecutorial district level.

- a) **Aggregate Number of Index Crimes:** We have constructed a variable called aggregate index crime by summing all these crimes for every county.

Units: per thousand

3. **Census Data of Year 2000:** Data can be downloaded from individual tables available at the following URL: <http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>. All of the data that we got from this source was available at the county level of aggregation. So we aggregated this data to the prosecutorial district level. The data about the local governments are available at <http://www.census.gov/govs/www/apesloc01.html>.

- a) **Aggregate Hours Worked by Part Time Employees of Local Governments:** Total number of hours worked by part-time employees.

- b) **Aggregate Total Full Time Employees of Local Governments:** Full-time employees of local governments.

- c) **Aggregate Total Part Time Employees of Local Governments:** Part-time payroll of local governments

- d) **Aggregate Pay of Full Time Employees of Local Governments:** Full-time payroll of local governments

Units: per thousand

- e) **Aggregate Pay of Part Time Employees of Local Governments:** Part-time payroll of local governments

Units: per thousand

- f) **Aggregate Number of Full Time Equivalent Workers:** Full-time Equivalent Employees

- g) **Housing Density:** The number of housing units in a district divided by the total land area of that district.

- h) **Males with No Schooling:** Number of males with no schooling in a district.

- i) **Males between Ages of 15 and 24:** Number of males between the ages of 15 and 24 in a district.

- j) **Metropolitan Statistical Area:** A binary variable which is 1 for districts that lies in Metropolitan Statistical Area, 0 otherwise.

- k) **Monthly Median Rent:** The median monthly rent of housing units in a district.

- l) **Number of African-Americans:** Total number of African-Americans living in a district.

- m) **Number of People who are Employed:** Number of people who are employed in a district.

- n) **Number of Houses that are Occupied:** Number of housing units that are occupied in a district.

- o) **Per-capita Income:** Per-capita income of a prosecutorial district.

Units: per thousand

- p) **Population:** Population of a prosecutorial district.

Units: per million

- q) **Population Density:** Population of a district divided by the total land area (excluded water area) of that district.

Units: per hundred

- r) **Rural Population:** Number of people who live in rural areas in a district.
 - s) **Total Area:** The total area of a district.
4. **Year 2000 Presidential Election Results:** Data about number of votes won by different candidates in November 2000 presidential election is taken from Center of Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University. It is available over the internet at the following URL: <http://spa.american.edu/ccps/pages.php?ID=12>. This data was also available at the level of counties. Therefore, we aggregated it to the prosecutorial district level.
- a) **Bush Votes:** The number of votes won by President Bush in November 2000 election. This variable measures the strength of the level of political conservatism of a district around the year 2000.
 - b) **Percentage of Bush Votes:** We constructed this variable from the above variable by dividing the votes that President Bush won in November 2000 election with the sum of votes that Bush, Nader, and Gore won in that election and then multiply it with 100.