DOCUMENTATION FOR DATASET CONTAINING YEARLY STATE SPENDING IN NINE POLICY AREAS, 1982-2011

The file, "spending data, 1982-2011.txt", contains data on yearly state government expenditures in nine policy areas. The file, "spending data, 1982-2011, with names.txt", contains contains the same data, but it also includes a header record with variable names. The data come from *State Government Finances* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 1983-2006). The spending figures are in thousand dollar units. There is one line of data per observation and on each line, adjacent data values are separated by whitespace. On each line, the variables appear in the following order:

State (two-letter USPS code)

Year

Education spending

Welfare spending

Hospitals spending

Health care spending

Highway spending

Law enforcement spending

Corrections spending

Parks and natural resources spending

Government administration spending

Note that the nine spending categories are defined in *State Government Finances*. However, we combine two categories, "Parks and recreation" and "Natural resources" into our single category of "Parks and natural resources." We simply sum the values for those two categories for each state in each year.

Questions about this dataset should be directed to William G. Jacoby (`jacoby@msu.edu`) or Saundra K. Schneider (`sks@msu.edu`).

U.S. Department of Commerce. 1983-1992. *State Government Finances*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Information for 1993-2011 available online: `http://www.census.gov/state/historical_data.html`