DOCUMENTATION FOR DATASET CONTAINING YEARLY STATE POLICY PRIORITY SCORES

The file "state priority scores.txt" contains the unfolded state spending priority scores produced and explained in "A New Measure of Policy Spending Priorities in the American States," by William G. Jacoby and Saundra K. Schneider.

The file contains 1200 observations, one for each of the fifty states, for each year from 1982 through 2005. There is one line of data per observation and adjacent values on each line are separated from each other by whitespace. On each line, the variables appear in the following order:

Case identification number (integers, from 1 to 1200)

State (Two-letter USPS abbreviation)

Year (Four-digit value, from 1982 through 2005)

Priority score (Score showing the degree to which state policy spending is devoted to collective goods policies, rather than particularized benefits policies. Values are set to a mean of zero; units are proportions; the difference between any two values shows the difference in spending allocated to collective goods)

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