Codebook for “Efficacy of Congressional Oversight”

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Dataset: “IP_hearings_agency_proquest.csv”
Description: Data on committee hearings on improper payments.
Variables:

Variable	**Description**
congress	Congress
date	Date of hearing
year	Calendar year of hearing
fiscalyear	Federal government fiscal year of hearing
cmt_govtrack	Committee name (Govtrack committee name version)
parent	Parent agency
title	Title of hearing
nwords	Number of words
agen_alltypes_hearings	Total hearings with the parent agency in the fiscal year
chamber	Chamber
hearingid	Hearing ID
subcommittee	Hearing is at the subcommittee level
polappt	Political appointee present from the agency
nwitness_agency	Number of witnesses from the agency

Dataset: “proquest_hearings_witnesses_2018_2021.csv”
Description: Data on committee hearings on improper payments, recent years. Data collected from manual collection and coding of hearings on improper payments using ProQuest Congressional subscription search (Accessed on April 29, 2023; data that was unavailable at the time for the fields below are left as missing values). This data is used in 01_CreateAndMergeData.do to append committee hearings on improper payments from the years that were not covered in the original ProQuest sourced data “IP_hearings_agency_proquest.csv”.
Variables:

Variable	**Description**
date	Date of hearing
committee	Committee (as listed by ProQuest Congressional) holding the hearing
Witness	Witness (as listed by ProQuest Congressional)
parent	Parent agency
subcommittee	Hearing is at the subcommittee level
nwords	Number of words
tot_witness	Total witnesses in hearing
polappt	Political appointee present from the agency

Dataset: “reports_ip.csv”
Description: Data on House Appropriations committee reports on improper payments from Congress.gov (Accessed on July 31, 2023).
Variables:

Variable	Description
report_id	Report ID
dateIssued	Report issue date
report_number	Report number
agencies	Agencies named in general listing and introduction of report
agencies_ip	Agencies with improper payments mentioned as needing attention or improvement in report
agencies_ip_neutral	Agencies linked to the topic of improper payments in report

Dataset: “payments_all.csv”
Description: Data from annual improper payments datasets downloaded from PaymentAccuracy.gov and historical annual financial reports from each agency.
Variables:

Variable	**Description**
agency	Agency
programname	Program
fiscalyear	Federal government fiscal year
outlaysamountm	Outlays in millions of dollars
improperpaymentamountm	Improper payments in millions of dollars
improperpaymentrate	Improper payment rate
programid	Program ID

Dataset: “adjacent_committees.csv”
Description: Data on agencies called for oversight hearings by each committee in the decade 1990-2000. Note that each row in this dataset is a committee-parent observation, representing that the committee had called that parent agency to any oversight hearing during that decade.
Variables:

Variable	**Description**
cmt_govtrack	Committee name (Govtrack committee name version)
parent	Parent agency

Dataset: “budget_agency.dta”
Description: Data on agency budget authorities and agency discretionary budget authorities.
Variables:

Variable	**Description**
agency	Agency
fiscalyear	Federal government fiscal year
ba	Budget authority in millions of dollars
dba	Budget authority for discretionary programs in millions of dollars

Dataset: “hearings_summary.csv”
Description: Data on committee hearings on improper payments.
Variables:

Variable	Description
fiscalyear	Federal government fiscal year
filename	Filename identifier
title	Title of hearing
parent	Parent agency
chamber	Chamber
committee	Committee
num_witness_agency	Number of witnesses from the agency
num_witness_ip	Number of total witnesses in the hearing, summed across all agencies in our dataset
hearingid	Hearing ID
cis	Congressional information service number

Dataset: “witness.dta”
Description and Variables: See Replication Data for Ban, Park, and You, 2024. “How Are Politicians Informed? Witnesses and Information Provision in Congress.” URL: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/TKRHZU