

# **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT DATA CODEBOOK**

E. Scott Adler  
Department of Political Science  
University of Colorado  
Campus Box 333  
Boulder, CO 80309

(303) 492-6659  
[esadler@colorado.edu](mailto:esadler@colorado.edu)

This codebook describes the variables included in the congressional district data file. Along with variable names, descriptions and values are some important information on sources. Variables followed by the word “Census” originate from information available in the U.S. Census’s Congressional District Databooks (either in paper or electronic files) or in the Census of Population. If installations or sites required placement into appropriate districts, this was accomplished using Census Congressional District Atlases; Congressional Directories; Congressional Quarterly’s Congressional Districts in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s; Rand McNally Road Atlases; military road atlases; U.S. Geological Survey maps; and maps of congressional districts in the 1940s and 1950s provided from a private collection. The citation for these sources is summarized below using the term, “District Maps.”

District data were usually only collected for every ten-year period, with the exception being instances where district lines were redrawn mid-decade and new Census data and maps were available (these reapportioned districts are noted in each data file where they appear). The new Census data and reapportioned districts start on the third year of each decade (1953, 1963, etc.). In several instances variables do not exist for every decade do to availability of information.

**VARIABLE    Description, values, and sources**

STATE	Two letter postal abbreviation for each state
FIPSTATE	A variant on state code (SC).
SC	ICPSR state code (first digit [including non-display '0'] indicates region).
CD	Congressional District (0 indicates state-wide data; 99, 98, etc. indicate state-wide congressional districts).
REDIST	Dummy for districts that have been reapportioned.
ACEREGIO	Army Corps of Engineers Flood Damage Regions. Flood damage regions are an aggregation of ACE districts and divisions. Congressional districts are placed in their appropriate region with as close a fit as possible. (A district is placed in the region that contains the majority of the district’s land area.) <u>Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers</u> (various years).
AGE65	Number of persons age 65 or greater in district. <u>Census</u> .
BANK	Bank assets in state (in millions of dollars). <u>Statistical Abstract</u> .
BLACK	Number of persons identifying race as African-American. <u>Census</u> .
BLUCLLR	Number of “blue collar” workers in district. Blue collar industries were those identified in the <u>Standard Industrial Classification Manual</u> (various years). For the 1940s-1970s: Craftsmen and Kindred Workers; Operatives, except transportation; Transportation equipment operatives; and Laborers, except farm. For the 1960 Census, the number of female Craftsmen and Laborers was unavailable by congressional district. Hence, there is a comparability problem for these categories across decades. For

the 1980s-90s, blue-collar classifications: Machine operators; Transportation and material moving; Handlers. Census.

CITY	The fifty largest cities were located in the Abstract (1 = district contains or is contained in one of the fifty largest central cities). <u>Statistical Abstract/ District Maps</u> .
COAST	Dummy variable for district having coastline or adjacent to Great Lake (1= district is coastal). <u>District Maps</u> .
CONSTRCT	Number of persons age 14+ identifying employment in construction industry. <u>Census</u> .
CVLLBRFRC	Size of civilian labor force. <u>Census</u> .
DC	Dummy variable for districts within 100 miles of Washington D.C. (1= district within 100 miles of D.C.). <u>District Maps</u> .
ENROLL	Number of persons enrolled in public elementary and high schools. <u>Census</u> .
FARMER	Number of persons identifying employment in farming (farm and farm managers) + (farm labors, exc. unpaid, and farm foreman) + (farm laborers, unpaid family workers); in the 1970 Census, this category was the sum of workers coded Farmers & Farm Managers plus Farm Laborers; changed in 1990 census to include fishing and wildlife industries <u>Census</u> .
FEDWRKR	Number of persons age 16+ employed by the federal government. <u>Census</u> .
FINANCE	Population 14+ employed in finance, insurance and real estate (industry code); missing 1960s data. <u>Census</u> .
FLOOD	Flood potential for district. Flood potential is measured using “Flood Damage Prevented,” by flood-damage region, as reported in <u>Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers</u> (various years). Flood damage regions are described above. Cumulative flood damage prevention levels for each region for the previous ten year period are standardized using the land area of the congressional districts that make up that region. Then congressional districts are given a dollar amount that corresponds to the flood damage prevented in their region per square mile.
FORBORN	Number of persons identifying as foreign born in district. <u>Census</u> .
GVTWRKR	For the 1970, 1980 and 1990 censuses, this category was the sum of those workers classified as “Federal Government,” “State Government,” and “Local Government.” However, this partitioning of government workers was unavailable for earlier Censuses. <u>Census</u> .
INTRLAND	Land owned by NPS & BLM (acres) in state. For the 1940s and 1950s, data reported in <u>Report of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management</u> . For the 1960s-1990s, <u>Public Land Statistics</u> . NPS data for the 1990s, is reported by the General Services Administration, <u>Summary Report of Real Property Owned by the U.S. Throughout the World</u> .
LANDSQMI	Size of district in square miles. <u>District Maps</u> .
LOCLWRKR	Number of persons age 16+ employed in local government. <u>Census</u> .

MANUF	Number of persons age 14+ identifying employment as manufacturing; slight change in calculation method beginning in 1990. <u>Census.</u>
MARINE	District contains Maritime or Coast Guard academy. <u>District Maps</u> and <u>Annual Report of the Federal Maritime Board/Maritime Administration</u> .
MDNINCM	Median family income in district. <u>Census.</u>
MILINST	Number of military installations in district. <u>Map Book of Major Military Installations (1955-1982)</u> , <u>State/District Atlas of Major Military Installations (1983-present)</u> , Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service. <u>District Maps.</u>
MILTMAJR	Number of major military installations in district. “Major” military installations were those named, “Fort,” “Base,” “Camp,” “Air Force Base,” “Naval Base,” or “Submarine Base.” <u>Map Book of Major Military Installations (1955-1982)</u> , <u>State/District Atlas of Major Military Installations (1983-present)</u> , Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service. <u>District Maps.</u>
MILTPOP	Military population. Calculated using the size of the civilian labor force subtracted from the size of the entire labor force. The Census frequently reported this as the number in the armed forces. <u>Census.</u>
NUCPLANT	District contains nuclear power plant. Plant locations were identified using Atomic Energy Commission and Nuclear Regulatory Commission <u>Annual Reports.</u> <u>District Maps.</u>
POPSQMI	Population per square mile in district. <u>Census.</u>
POPULATN	Population of state or district. <u>Census.</u>
PORT	Waterborne shipping tonnage in port cities in district. Port activity as measured by total tons of commerce in and out of each port. For the 1940s, <u>Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers.</u> For the 1950s-1980s, <u>Waterborne Commerce in the United States.</u> For the 1990s, <u>Report to Congress on the Status of Public Ports of the U.S. (U.S. MarAd, 1992).</u> (no value = district did not contain measured port). <u>District Maps.</u>
RURLFARM	Population living in rural farm areas. <u>Census.</u>
STATWRKR	Number of persons age 16+ employed in state government. <u>Census.</u>
TRANSPRT	Number of persons identifying employment as transportation and public utilities. <u>Census.</u>
UNEMPLYD	Number of persons identified as unemployed. <u>Census.</u>
UNION	Percent unionized in state. <u>Statistical Abstract, 1950s-1970s.</u> For the 1940s and 1980s, the <u>U.S. Union Sourcebook (Troy and Sheflin 1985).</u>
URBAN	Population living in urban areas; new definition in 1990. <u>Census.</u>
VABEDS	Beds in Veterans Administration Hospitals in district. A list of all VA hospitals is provided in the <u>Annual Report of the Veterans Administration.</u> Beds are the “total average operating beds” in Psychiatric and General Hospitals. <u>District Maps.</u>
VETERANS	Number of veterans (for several congresses, this data is only available by state, later congresses by district). For the 1940s and 1950s,

veterans data were provided by the Veterans Administration, in Historical Statistics of the Veteran Population: 1865-1960 (U.S. Veterans Administration 1961). Estimation techniques for veteran populations are provided in the forward of this document. For the 1960s-1990s, Statistical Abstract.

WHLRETL Number of persons identifying employment as wholesale or retail trade.  
Census.