

Documentation for Movies

These data file contains data on the number of assaults and movie attendance for 516 weekends from 1995-2004. These are aggregated version of data provided by Gordon Dahl and Stefano DellaVigna that were used in their paper “Does Movie Violence Increase Violent Crime?” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2009, 124(2): 677-734.

Variable Name	Description
<i>Assaults and Movie Attendance</i>	
assaults	number of assaults and intimidation in a subset of U.S. counties
attend_v	attendance stongly violent movies (in millions)
attend_m	attendance mildly violent movies (in millions)
attend_n	attendance nonviolent movies (in millions)
<i>Weather, Holiday and Calendar Variables</i>	
year1 to year10	indicator variable for year of the sample (1995-2004)
month1 to month12	indicator variables for month of the year (January-December)
h_chris	indicator variable for Christmas weekend
h_newyr	indicator variable for New Years weekend
h_easter	indicator variable for Easter weekend
h_july4	indicator variable for July 4 (U.S. Independence Day) weekend
h_mem	indicator variable for Memorial Day weekend
h_labor	indicator variable for Labor Day weekend
w_rain	fraction of locations with rain
w_snow	fraction of locations with snow
w_maxa	fraction of locations with maximum daily temperature between 80°F and 90°F
w_maxb	fraction of locations with maximum daily temperature between 90°F and 100°F
w_maxc	fraction of locations with maximum daily temperature greater than 100°F
w_mina	fraction of locations with minimum daily temperature less than 10°F
w_minb	fraction of locations with minimum daily temperature between 10°F and 20°F
w_minc	fraction of locations with minimum daily temperature between 20°F and 32°F
<i>Instruments</i>	
pr_attend_v	predicted attendance violent movies
pr_attend_m	predicted attendance moderately violent movies
pr_attend_n	predicted attendance nonviolent movies
attend_v_f	attendance violent movies one week in the future
attend_m_f	attendance moderately violent movies one week in the future
attend_n_f	attendance nonviolent movies one week in the future
attend_v_b	attendance violent movies one week in the past
attend_m_b	attendance moderately violent movies one week in the past
attend_n_b	attendance nonviolent movies one week in the past

Notes:

- (1) The assault data are from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Note that the number of counties included in the NIBRS increased over the 1995-2004 sample period, and this explains the increasing trend in the number of assaults over the sample period.
- (2) The “fractions” for the weather variables are averages of indicator variables for each location, where the averages are weighted by population.