

Social Media and Children in the US

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Abstract

Over the past year, political sentiment, has pushed companies to regulate social media use for children in the United State. This article will analyze the 300 bills in US state legislators to understand which states are the biggest regulators of social media.

Methods

We scraped the data from the National Conference of State Legislatures. The data was imported on October 3, 2024. We utilized rstudio, along with the tidyverse package and usmap package to read in and analyze the data.

In total, there are 50 states and 9 different statuses for the legislation, including “Enacted”, “To governor”, “Adopted”, “Pending”, “Pending - Carryover”, “Failed - Adjourned”, “Failed”, “Vetoed”, and ” ” for NA values. We then cleaned the data to remove all values in the dataset that indicated the state had no legislation related to social media and children.

When analyzing the data, we looked to understand which states introduced the highest number of bills. We also calculated how many bills were passed by state legislatures and in which state. Finally, we included qualitative analysis, studying the political compositions of state legislatures and governments that passed bills regulating social media and child welfare.

```
Rows: 308 Columns: 5
```

```
-- Column specification -----
```

```
Delimiter: ","
```

```
chr (5): jurisdiction, number, title, status, summary
```

```
i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
```

```
i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this message.
```

[1]	"Alabama"	"Alaska"	"Arizona"	"Arkansas"
[5]	"California"	"Colorado"	"Connecticut"	"Delaware"
[9]	"Florida"	"Georgia"	"Hawaii"	"Idaho"
[13]	"Illinois"	"Indiana"	"Iowa"	"Kansas"
[17]	"Kentucky"	"Louisiana"	"Maine"	"Maryland"
[21]	"Massachusetts"	"Michigan"	"Minnesota"	"Mississippi"
[25]	"Missouri"	"Montana"	"Nebraska"	"Nevada"
[29]	"New Hampshire"	"New Jersey"	"New Mexico"	"New York"
[33]	"North Carolina"	"North Dakota"	"Ohio"	"Oklahoma"
[37]	"Oregon"	"Pennsylvania"	"Rhode Island"	"South Carolina"
[41]	"South Dakota"	"Tennessee"	"Texas"	"Utah"
[45]	"Vermont"	"Virginia"	"Washington"	"West Virginia"
[49]	"Wisconsin"	"Wyoming"		

[1]	"Enacted"	"Failed - Adjourned"	"Pending"
[4]	"Vetoed"	" "	"Failed"
[7]	"To governor"	"Adopted"	"Pending - Carryover"

Results

A tibble: 42 x 2

	state	n
	<fct>	<int>
1	New York	30
2	California	22
3	Illinois	20
4	New Jersey	20
5	Virginia	14
6	Minnesota	11
7	Pennsylvania	11
8	West Virginia	11
9	Florida	10
10	Indiana	10

i 32 more rows

A tibble: 19 x 2

	state	n
	<fct>	<int>
1	Utah	3
2	Colorado	2
3	Florida	2

4	Georgia	2
5	Indiana	2
6	Louisiana	2
7	Maryland	2
8	Tennessee	2
9	Virginia	2
10	Alabama	1
11	Idaho	1
12	Kansas	1
13	Kentucky	1
14	Minnesota	1
15	Mississippi	1
16	Nebraska	1
17	Oklahoma	1
18	South Carolina	1
19	West Virginia	1

Visualizing by State

New England Region

Poverty Percentage Estimates for New England Counties in 2014

