

MENA Datasources for Introductory Quantitative Social Science Classes

I think the easiest way to learn quantitative social science tools is to practice by trying to use these tools to answer questions you find interesting. This is challenging for students with interests in the politics of the Middle East and North Africa, where quantitative data is often very difficult to access and most projects require creating the data yourself. Here is a list of off-the-shelf data I compiled for students wanting to study MENA in introductory quantitative social science courses with tight deadlines:

Public Opinion, Labor Market, Health Surveys

- Arab Barometer: <https://www.arabbarometer.org/>
- Arab Opinion Index: <https://arabindex.dohainstitute.org/EN/Pages/About.aspx>
- Middle Eastern Values Survey: <https://mevs.org/>
- World Values Survey: <https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp>
- Everything from the Arab Council for Social Sciences, especially their Youth Surveys: <https://dataverse.theacss.org/dataverse/root/?q=youth>
- Everything from the Economic Research Forum, especially their Labor Market Panel Surveys: <https://erf.org.eg/erf-data-portal/>
- USAID's Demographic and Health Surveys: <https://dhsprogram.com/data/available-datasets.cfm>

Administrative, Geo-Spatial, or Events Data

These are all cross-national sources with coverage of Jordan and at least some coverage of countries in MENA.

- IPUMS (Harmonized International Census Data): <https://international.ipums.org/international/index.shtml>
- World Bank's Worldwide Bureaucracy Indicators Dataset (public sector pay scales, etc.): <https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/interactive/2019/05/21/worldwide-bureaucracy-indicators-dashboard>
- World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators Dataset: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/worldwide-governance-indicators>
- Facebook 'Data for Good':
 - Facebook/Meta Relative Wealth Index: <https://dataforgood.facebook.com/dfg/tools/relative-wealth-index>
 - Facebook/Meta Social Connectedness Index: <https://dataforgood.facebook.com/dfg/tools/social-connectedness-index>
- Administrative Boundary Shapefiles:
 - HDX: <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/geoboundaries-admin-boundaries-for-jordan>
 - GADM Administrative Boundaries Shape Files: <https://gadm.org/index.html>
- Geo-Spatial Data: Open Street Map, which also conveniently compiles country-level datasets for download. I find the often informal neighborhood names to be especially useful: <https://www.openstreetmap.org/>
- Events: ACLED: <https://acleddata.com/>