Partisan Voting, County Demographics, and Deaths of Despair

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Years: Demographic data 2016, presidential voting data 2012 and 2016, deaths of despair data 1980-2014

Unit of observation: Counties in the United States (excluding territories)

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Citation and Use:

* Publications and research reports that use this data must cite it appropriately by including the following information:

Ella Foster-Molina and Ben Warren. *Partisan Voting, County Demographics, and Deaths of Despair*

*Data*. February 2019.

Data was compiled, decoded, and packaged from the following sources:

Census:

* census.gov

Deaths of despair

* + Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). United States Substance Use Disorders and Intentional Injuries Mortality Rates by County 1980-2014. Seattle, United States: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), 2018.

Voting records:

* <https://github.com/tonmcg/US_County_Level_Election_Results_08-16>
  + “2012 election results at the county-level are taken from results published in an Excel file by the [Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2012/nov/07/us-2012-election-county-results-download#data).”
  + “2016 election results at the county-level are scraped from results published by [Townhall.com](http://townhall.com/election/2016/president/). Their well-formatted county-level result tables for the 2016 presidential general election makes it easy for a web scraper like beautifulsoup to capture results.”

**Data Dictionary**

County Identification

* FIPS:
  + Five digit Federal Information Processing Standards code that uniquely identifies counties and county equivalents in the United States
* county:
  + County name
* state:
  + State full name
* Area.name:
  + County name, may be identical to county variable
* undereducated
  + Percent of the county that has a high school degree or less
* prcntDeaths
  + Percent of the county that died in 2016
* prcntBirths
  + Percent of the county that was born in 2016
* INTERNATIONAL\_MIG\_2016
  + Net number of people who came to the county from another country, or left the county for another country
* rshift
  + Percentage difference between the Republican presidential vote in that county in 2016 and 2012. For example, 46.7955% of Kent County in Delaware (FIPS 20001) voted for Romney in 2012. In 2016, 49.81482% of that county voted for Trump. Therefore, the county shifted towards the Republican presidential candidate by 3.01325%. Positive value mean leaning more Republican; negative values mean leaning less Republican.
* prcntPopChg
  + Percent net increase or decrease in the population of the county in 2016; i.e. is the county shrinking or growing.
* flipped
  + 0 if the majority of the county voted for the Democrat (or Republican) in both 2012 and 2016.
  + 1 if the majority of the county vote Democratic in 2012 (2016) and then Republican in 2016 (2012).
* alcohol1980
  + Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 people from alcohol use disorders in 1980
* alcohol2014
  + Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 people from alcohol use disorders in 2014
* alcoholChg1980to2014
  + Percent change in age-standardized mortality rate from alcohol use disorders between 1980 and 2014
* drug1980
  + Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 people from drug use disorders in 1980
* drugl2014
  + Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 people from drug use disorders in 2014
* drugChg1980to2014
  + Percent change in age-standardized mortality rate from drug use disorders between 1980 and 2014
* self1980
  + Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 people from self inflicted injury in 1980
* self2014
  + Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 people from self inflicted injury in 2014
* selfChg1980to2014
  + Percent change in age-standardized mortality rate from self inflicted injury between 1980 and 2014
* violence1980
  + Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 people from Interpersonal violence in 1980
* violence2014
  + Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 people from Interpersonal violence in 2014
* violenceChg1980to2014
  + Percent change in age-standardized mortality rate from Interpersonal violence between 1980 and 2014
* totalMortality2014
  + Total mortality rate per 100,000 people for all causes (drug, alcohol, self inflicted violence, interpersonal violence) in 2014
* totalSelfMortality2014
  + Mortality rate per 100,000 for drugs, alcohol, and self inflicted harm in 2014. This excludes interpersonal violence so that the number only reflects self imposed deaths of despair, not interpersonal violence.
* prcntGOP12
  + Percent of the county that voted for the Republican presidential candidate, Mitt Romney, in 2012.
* prcntGOP16
  + Percent of the county that voted for the Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump, in 2016.
* prcntDem12
  + Percent of the county that voted for the Democratic presidential candidate, Barack Obama, in 2012.
* prcntDem16
  + Percent of the county that voted for the Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, in 2012.
* popChg15
  + Net population (total, not percent) change in 2016; i.e. how many more (or fewer) people were in this county between the end of 2015 and the end of 2016. Note that the 15 in the variable name is a typo. It should be 16.
* popEstimate16
  + Population in the county in 2016
* whiteNotLatino
  + Percent of the county that was white, but not Latinx, in 2016.
* black
  + Percent of the county that was black in 2016.
* unemployment
  + Unemployment rate in 2016.
* poverty
  + Percent of the county in poverty in 2016.
* deaths16
  + Number of people who died in the county in 2016.
* births16
  + Number of people who were born in the county in 2016
* domesticMig16
  + Net domestic migration in 2016.
* medianIncome16
  + Median household income in the county in 2016.
* stateAbbrv
  + Abbreviation for the state name