

Problem Set 5

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Problem 3 - Webscraping

This data lists 150 university towns. I am interested in studying homelessness in university towns, exploring links between enrollment, rent prices, and homelessness counts. This data is incomplete in its usefulness – I need more data on the cities such as total population, number of students enrolled at the university, et cetera – but it is a good starting point listing schools and their cities to help me find a more robust data set.

I did not use any online tutorials to help me scrape this but did use my own notes from class (specifically, the test.r file in which we scraped from Wikipedia).

Problem 4 - API

For this problem, I signed up for a Housing and Urban Development API in order to access Fair Market Rent (FMR) data for counties and metro-areas. FMR is defined as the 40th percentile in rent for a 1-to-4 bedroom unit in that county or metropolitan area.

I thought this data was very interesting and could be a very helpful way to quickly gather both "treated" data and controls for many regional areas. Examining the FMR for various regions yielded expected results – e.g., the Tulsa and Oklahoma metro areas are more expensive than anywhere else in Oklahoma.

To gather this data, I needed to use the packages "httr" and "jsonlite".