Context:

"Lynching" historically includes not only Southern lynching but frontier lynching and vigilantism nationwide and many labor-related incidents. Persons of any race or ethnicity and either gender may have been either perpetrators or victims of lynching. The lynchings in this dataset follow an NAACP definition for including an incident in the inventory of lynchings:

1. There must be evidence that someone was killed;
2. The killing must have occurred illegally;
3. Three or more persons must have taken part in the killing; and
4. The killers must have claimed to be serving justice or tradition.

Content:

The original data came from the NAACP Lynching Records at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama. Stewart Tolnay and E.M. Beck examined these records for name and event duplications and other errors with funding from a National Science Foundation Grant and made their findings available to Project HAL in 1998. Project HAL is inactive now, but it’s original purpose was to build a data set for researchers to use and to add to.

The dataset contains the following information for each of the 2806 reported lynchings:

* State: State where the lynching took place
* Year: Year of the lynching
* Mo: Month
* Day: Day
* Victim: Name of the victim
* County: County where the lynching occurred (keep in mind that county names have changed & boundaries redrawn)
* Race: Race of the victim
* Sex: Sex of the victim
* Mob: Information on the mob
* Offense: Victim’s alleged offense
* Note: Note (if any)
* 2nd Name: Name of the 2nd victim (if any)
* 3rd Name: Name of the 3rd victim (if any)
* Comments: Comments (if any)
* Source: Source of the information (if any)

Acknowledgements:

This dataset was compiled by Dr. Elizabeth Hines and Dr. Eliza Steelwater. If you use this dataset in your work, please include the following citation:

Hines, E., & Steelwater, E. (2006). Project Hal: Historical American Lynching Data Collection Project. University of North Carolina, <http://people.uncw.edu/hinese/HAL/HAL%20Web%20Page.htm>

You may also like:

* Bryan Stevenson’s Equal Justice Initiative, EJI posts lynching information and stories and is currently quite active:<https://www.eji.org/>
* [First Person Narratives of the American South: Personal accounts of Southern life between 1860 and 1920](https://www.kaggle.com/docsouth-data/first-person-narratives-of-the-american-south)

Inspiration:

* Can you use the county-level data in this dataset to create a map of lynchings in the US?
* What demographic qualities were most associated with lynching victims?
* How did patterns of lynching change over time?