UNDERSTANDING FEDERAL STATISTICS

Statistics About Governments

March 8, 2011
Overview

• Introduction
• Organization of state and local governments
• Governments as economic entities
• Collection and production of data
  – State and local governments
  – Federal programs
• Other data collected on a reimbursable basis
• Website activities
• Conclusion
Introduction

• Main purposes of governments statistics
  – Provide economic statistics about governments
  – Act as a public-sector counterpart to economic data of business, industry, and services
  – Track activity of governments over time
• Response is voluntary
• Virtually no confidentiality restriction
What makes the Governments Division special?

- Governments Division provides timely, relevant, uniform, and accurate data on the characteristics and activities of federal, state, and local governments.

- Data supply a unique profile of the public sector that helps us to understand federalism and its effects on how governments provide public services.
## Core Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Survey/Program</th>
<th>Data Available For:</th>
<th>Data Items Included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every 5 Years</td>
<td>Census of Governments</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
<td>Number of Units, Employment, Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
<td>Employment, wages, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td>Revenue, expenditures, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Survey of State Government Finances</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>Revenue, expenditures, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Consolidated Federal Funds Report</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td>Federal expenditures, obligations, &amp; contingent liabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal Aid to States Report</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>Federal expenditures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finance Survey</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
<td>Revenue, expenditures, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State and Local Government Public-Employee Retirement System Survey</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
<td>Contributions, assets, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Government Tax Collections Survey</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>Tax revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>Quarterly Public-Employee Retirement Systems Survey</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Contributions, assets, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quarterly Tax Survey</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>Tax revenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Governments Data on the Census Bureau’s Website

Federal, State, & Local Governments

Federal Spending
Federal spending on selected programs:
- Annual: Consolidated Federal Funds Report (CFFR)
- Quarterly: Federal Assistance Award Data System (FAADS)
- Federal Audit Clearinghouse

Tax Statistics
Annual survey of state government tax revenue and quarterly survey of tax revenue for state & local governments. Annual data are available online from 1992 and on. Quarterly data are available online from 1993 and on.
- Annual: State Government Tax Collections
- Quarterly: State & Local Government Tax Revenue

Lists & Structure of Governments
Information about state & local governments, including the number of governments in the U.S.
- Descriptions by state of how governments are organized (PDF, 2.94MB)

Special Topics
The Census Bureau also conducts surveys about special topics related to government activity for other federal agencies.
- Criminal Justice Statistics
- Elementary – Secondary Education Statistics
- Library Statistics

Government Employment & Payroll
Statistics on the number of federal, state, and local government civilian employees and their gross payrolls by functional category. Data are available online from 1992 and on.
- Annual: Government Employment & Payroll
- Customize a data table with Build-a-Table

Government Finance Statistics
Financial activity of governments including revenues, expenditures, debt and assets. Data are available online from 1992 and on:
- Annual: State Government Finances
- Annual: State & Local Government Finances

Financial statistics of public school systems, including data on revenues, expenditures, debt, and assets. Data are available online from 1992 and on:
- Annual: Public Elementary – Secondary Education Finances

Financial statistics on state and local government employee retirement systems. Annual data are available online from 1993 and on. Quarterly data for the last five years are available online.
- Annual: State & Local Government Employee Retirement Systems
- Quarterly: Finances of Selected Public Employee Retirement Systems

Reference Documents
- Government Finance & Employment Classification Manual
- Publications

Census of Governments
- 2007
- 2002
- 1997
- 1992

Respondent Tools
- Single Audit Submission
- Get Forms

Contact Information

[PDF or .PS represents a file in Adobe Acrobat Document Format. To view the file, you will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader. © available free from Adobe.]
Government Organization

- Why is understanding government structure important?
- What is included, and what isn’t?
- How are basic services provided in each state, and sometimes each locality?
- Which comparisons are valid and which are not?
Defining a Government

3 criteria for defining a government:

- Existence as an organized entity – legal organization & corporate powers
- Governmental character – public officers & accountability
- Substantial autonomy
  - Fiscal independence
  - Administrative independence
Examples

Government
- Water systems
- Cities
- Counties
- Pest control districts
- States

Non Government
- Homeowners’ associations
- Most charter schools
- Tourism development authorities
- Pest control districts
Types of Governments

• Federal Government
• 50 State Governments
• 5 Local Governments
  • County
  • Municipalities
  • Towns/Townships
  • Special Purpose Districts
  • School Districts
# Chicago and New York: Are They Comparable?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chicago</th>
<th>New York City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook County= 539 governments:</td>
<td>New York City= 3 governments:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1 County</td>
<td>- 0 Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 121 Cities</td>
<td>- 1 City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 29 Townships</td>
<td>- 0 Townships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 236 Special Districts</td>
<td>- 2 Special Districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 152 School Districts</td>
<td>- 0 School Districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(dependent on city)</td>
<td>(dependent on city)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diversity Across States

- There are about 90,000 local governments in the U.S. (2007 official count = 89,476)
- Illinois had the most governments (6,994) and Hawaii the fewest (19)
- Cook County, Illinois, had more governments than any other county (543)
- Texas led nation with 254 county governments, Connecticut and Rhode Island have none
Diversity Across States: Map
Government Structure

- Core government
  - Executive, legislative, and sometimes judicial
- Dependent agencies
- Jointly governed activities
- Note: Core government alone does not reflect all public-sector activity for a government! For example…. 
Example: New York City

- Over 40 dependent agencies in NYC, including:
  - City Ferries to Staten Island
  - Fashion Institute of Technology, Manhattan
  - New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation
  - Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority
  - United Nations Development District and Corporation
Governments Data on the Census Bureau’s Website

Federal, State, & Local Governments

Site Resources
- What's New
- Press Releases
- Build-a-Table
- Program Overview
- Census of Governments
- Modernization & Re-engineering
- Summary Reports

Reference Documents
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- Publications

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- Elementary – Secondary Education Statistics
- Library Statistics

Source: U.S. Census Bureau | Governments Division | (800) 242–2184 | censpubs@blm.gov | Last Revised: May 28, 2010
Website Activity

- How many special districts are in the state of Washington?
- Hint: Lists and Structure of Governments
- [http://www.census.gov/govs/cog/GovOrgTab03ss.html](http://www.census.gov/govs/cog/GovOrgTab03ss.html)
  - 1,229 special districts
## Change in Number of Governments by Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>1952</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total governments</td>
<td>89,527</td>
<td>116,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Governments</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Governments</td>
<td>89,476</td>
<td>116,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Purpose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>3,033</td>
<td>3,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal</td>
<td>19,492</td>
<td>16,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Township</td>
<td>16,519</td>
<td>17,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Purpose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School District</td>
<td>13,051</td>
<td>67,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special District</td>
<td>37,381</td>
<td>12,340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Governments
Available Information

• Data we collect
  – State and local information on finance, employment, retirement, and organization
  – Statistics on federal spending
• Data collected for other agencies on a reimbursable basis
  – Information on libraries, education, and criminal justice
State and Local Government Data: Uses

- Calculation of important economic measures
  - GDP: Bureau of Economic Analysis
  - Flow of Funds: Federal Reserve Board
- Time series analysis
- Comparative analysis
- Public Policy
  - Tax, health, education, welfare, transit, etc.
Governments as Producers: Percent of Gross Domestic Product

- Personal Consumption: 70.6%
- Government Expenditure: 20.5%
- Private Domestic Investment: 12.4%
- Net Exports: -3.5%

Federal
40.4% of govt (8.3% of GDP)

State & local
59.5% of govt (12.2% of GDP)

Source: 2010 Q1, Bureau of Economic Analysis
Website Activity

• Which state received more revenue from their individual income tax in 2009: Ohio or Pennsylvania?
• Hint: State tax collections
• http://www.census.gov/govs/statetax/
  – Ohio: $8,323,352
  – Pennsylvania: $9,550,2380
State & Local Government Finance

• Main categories:
  – Revenues (by type)
  – Expenditures (by character and function)
  – Indebtedness (by term)
  – Cash and securities
Revenues of State Governments

• If government revenue were measured in the Fortune 500, 47 states would make the list (2009):
  – California and New York among the top twenty
  – South Dakota (state government with lowest revenue) would rank 792\textsuperscript{nd}

• Large local governments (2008), including:
  – New York City
  – Washington, D.C.

• School districts (2008), including:
  – Chicago Public Schools
  – Los Angeles Unified School District

Sources: CNNMoney.com; U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Annual Surveys of State & Local Government Finance, 2009 Survey of State Government Finance
# Sources of Tax Revenue — Variety Among States

## Percent Distribution of State Government Tax Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year 2009</th>
<th>Sales and Gross Receipts</th>
<th>License Taxes</th>
<th>Income Taxes</th>
<th>All Other Taxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sales Total</td>
<td>General Sales</td>
<td>Selective Sales</td>
<td>License Taxes Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Average</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2009 Annual Survey of State Government Tax Collections
Website Activity

• How much money did the federal government spend on the Postal Service in fiscal year 2009?
• Hint: CFFR
• Figure 3
  – $71.9 billion
3 Steps to Build-A-Table
Website Activity

• Find the number of firefighters employed by California governments in 2007
• Hint: Government employment and payroll
• http://www2.census.gov/govs/apes/07stlca.txt
  – 30,545 full time
  – 3,605 part time
Reimbursable Programs

• Conduct surveys for other federal agencies
  – Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)
  – National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
  – Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
  – Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
  – National Science Foundation (NSF)
# Reimbursable Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Survey/Program</th>
<th>Data Available For:</th>
<th>Data Items Included</th>
<th>Sponsoring Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biennial</td>
<td>Academic Libraries Survey</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>Expenditures, staffing, circulation, etc.</td>
<td>NCES - (Dept of Education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juvenile Residential Facility Census</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>Facility characteristics</td>
<td>OJJDP - (DOJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Annual Survey of Jails</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
<td>Jails and inmates</td>
<td>BJS - (DOJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Criminal Justice Expenditure and Employment Survey</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Finance and employment</td>
<td>BJS - (DOJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Health Insurance Cost Study</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
<td>Health plans, premiums, benefits, and enrollment</td>
<td>AHRQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Public Education Financial Survey</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
<td>Revenue, expenditures</td>
<td>NCES - (Dept of Education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-fiscal surveys of the Common Core of Data</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>Directory, membership, teachers, staff, dropouts, graduates</td>
<td>NCES - (Dept of Education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Library Agencies Survey</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>Expenditures, staffing, governance, etc.</td>
<td>Institute of Museum and Library Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>Federal Assistance Award Data System</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
<td>Federal expenditures or obligations.</td>
<td>OMB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Website Activity

• What percentages of their money did school districts receive from federal, state, and local sources in 2008?

• [http://www2.census.gov/govs/school/08f33pub.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/govs/school/08f33pub.pdf)

• Figure 1a
  – Federal sources: 8.1%
  – State sources: 48.3%
  – Local sources: 43.7%

Source: Public Education Finances, 2007
Conclusion

• Government statistics are:
  – important
  – timely
  – significant

• These statistics are critical to understanding the fiscal welfare of state and local governments

• Government data is essential to assemble GDP and Federal Fund accounts
Questions?

Outreach and Education Branch
Governments Division

govs.cms.inquiry@census.gov
1-800-242-2184